

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 73, No. 91 ©SS 2014

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014

平成26年6月15日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星島新聞社 〒100-0015 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番12号 定価¥100

\$1.00

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of marijuana use

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US tried to free hostages in Syria

Failed mission sought to rescue slain photojournalist, other American captives

By ADAM GOLDMAN
AND KAREN DeYOUNG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. Special Operations forces staged an unsuccessful operation this summer to rescue photojournalist James Foley and other Americans being held in Syria by Islamic State militants, according to senior Obama administration officials.

The attempt, involving several dozen U.S. commandos, one of whom

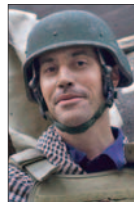
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was injured in a fierce firefight with the militants, was the first known U.S. ground operation in Syria since the country's descent into civil war.

It came after at least six European hostages freed by the militants last spring had been debriefed by U.S. intelligence.

"The president authorized earlier this summer an operation to attempt the rescue of American citizens held by ISIL," one of the abbreviations used to refer to the Islamic State, said one of two senior officials who provided information on the mission.

SEE RESCUE ON PAGE 7



Foley



RUNNING
FOR THEIR
LIVES

Displaced Iraqis destitute, hopeful
US will continue airstrikes | Page 6

JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Displaced Iraqis find shelter in a sweltering, unfinished commercial building in Irbil, Iraq, earlier this week. They fled their homes in fear of the Islamic State's advance in the Mosul region.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If she wants, she can do anything. She is the biggest power in the world."

— Martin Banni, who recently fled the Islamic State advance and is overseeing the refugee camp at Anikwa, Iraq, saying that those displaced are hoping America will save them

See story on Page 6

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Journalist James Foley, abducted in Syria, beheaded by Islamic State
2. Work finally begins on building Marine Corps runway on Okinawa
3. Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Bernard Fisher dies
4. 20 years, 4 branches: Servicemember is part of exclusive club
5. US official: Military has been asked to send more troops to Iraq

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Shifting
Gears

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mergers
are created
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MILITARY

Leaders lift alcohol ban in Ramstein dorms

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Unaccompanied airmen on Ramstein and Kapaun Air Station once again can enjoy alcohol in their living quarters.

Base leaders announced in a series of town hall meetings Wednesday that they were lifting a 17-month ban on alcohol possession and consumption in and around the dormitories.

The easiest step would have been "leaving the policy in place," said Brig. Gen. Patrick X. Mordente, 86th Airlift Wing commander, addressing about 75 airmen Wednesday night with his command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Frank H. Batten III. "We didn't think it was the right thing, though."

About 1,100 single or unaccompanied airmen in grades E-1 through E-3 live in Air Force dormitories in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, according to statistics from base officials.

Mordente and Batten — neither of whom was at Ramstein when the ban was implemented — said easing the ban was about trusting their airmen to do the right, responsible thing and to act like professional airmen on and off duty.

"I'm a firm believer in treating airmen like airmen, treating them like professionals, holding them to a standard," Mordente said in an interview. "Quite honestly, we looked at it; we have confidence in our airmen. Why not go ahead and lift the ban? I think they can do this, I really do."

Older dorm residents, especially, "can't understand why I'm not allowed to have a glass of wine in my room, but I'm allowed to carry a weapon and defend the front gate or I'm allowed to fix an aircraft worth millions of dollars," Batten said, noting that about 60 percent of dorm residents are over 21. "So, it's come down to that professional development part." Hey, my leadership says they trust me, but they don't trust me with this part of it."

Mordente's predecessor, Brig. Gen. Charles K. Hyde, banned alcohol in the dormitories in early March 2013, after a series of alcohol-related misconduct. In 2012, the year before the ban was implemented, 50 alcohol-related incidents involved airmen in grades E-1 to E-3, according to base officials. In 2013, with the ban in place for nearly 10 months that year, the number rose to 66. As of May 23, 2014, 19 alcohol-related incidents involved airmen in ranks E-1 to E-3.

Mordente said the decision to implement the ban was the right one at the time.

"He did what he had to do to get a situation

under control, a situation where we had airmen hanging off of balconies screaming at 2 o'clock in the morning that they've been drunk every night in Europe and they're drunk one more night," Mordente said.

But most of the airmen who were living in the dormitories then are no longer at Ramstein, Mordente said.

After comparing the statistics on alcohol-related incidents before and after the ban's implementation, Mordente said, officials couldn't find a consistent decrease in misconduct. Incidents tended to be cyclical.

"You couldn't look at the data and say 'You know what, the ban was lifted on that day,'" he said in an interview.

Though the ban on alcohol wasn't driven by sexual assaults in the dorms, wing leaders consulted with sexual assault prevention experts on Ramstein about the policy, given the correlation of alcohol and sexual assaults across the military, Mordente said.

A Pentagon report released in May showed that two-thirds of sexual assaults across the military in fiscal 2013 involved alcohol use by the victim, the assailant or both.

"I said 'Please show me the data and make sure there's not something here that I'm missing,'" he said. They told the commander that sexual assault, from an Air Force perspective, is a much broader issue, he said.

"It's not about just the dorms. It's about downtown K-town, it's about 24/7, it's about being airmen, it's about treating people with respect," Mordente said.

"The ban was not about sexual assault. The ban was about holding airmen to a standard. Lifting the ban is the fact that we, the leadership team, think our airmen can maintain that standard."

On Wednesday evening, as it was getting dark, young people with beer cans were seen walking or sitting by the dorm pavilions.

Airman 1st Class Sarah Nixon, 24, an aircraft maintainer from Birmingham, Ala., said airmen in the dorms had been excited all day about news that would be lifted.

"I'm excited only because I'm older and it'd be really nice to have my wine at night," she said.

She's concerned about how the younger airmen will handle the privilege. "At Ramstein, you only have to be 18 to drink, so that worries me a little," she said.

Airman 1st Class Adam Nunez, 22, a secu-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick X. Mordente

rity forces gate guard from New Jersey, said, "I think we'll be just fine. I see no issues."

He added, "I really appreciate that they have that trust in us, that we can really go out there and be responsible airmen."

Others have doubts.

Among them is Airman 1st Class Philip Aiken, 21, a cyberoperations helpdesk technician from Tucson, Ariz., who said he doesn't drink alcohol.

He said after the evening town hall that he was skeptical about easing the ban, "simply because I know there are a lot of airmen in the dorms who don't have a lot of self-control."

"It will definitely be interesting."

Batten said very few dorm residents have voiced support to him for keeping the ban.

Nevertheless, he said, "I think that we're going to have airmen that disagree with the decision we made, but we're not out of bounds with the rest of the Air Force or the rest of society. These airmen are of drinking age and they're able to drink now. We're just allowing them to have alcohol in their dorms."

Ramstein was the only Air Force base in Europe to prohibit alcohol in the dormitories, according to Air Force officials. Dormitories at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, have been alcohol-free since 2002.

Mordente told airmen that wing leaders would have no qualms about bringing the ban back, if warranted.

"I will tell you this, as fast as the ban was lifted, it can be put back in place," he said. "And if the leadership team believes that, for the betterment of the airmen as a whole, we need to do that, we will do it."

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MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Tugboats assist the USS George Washington as it pulls out of Busan, South Korea. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has recommended the carrier be retired in 2016, a move that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert has said he opposes.

Navy leader details Pacific boost

Greenert says spending plan calls for additional ships in critical region

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy's top leader Wednesday released details of a five-year navigation plan that calls for increasing the forward presence of ships to about 120 by 2020, up from this year's average of 97.

It also calls for a single "cyber-safe" authority to protect the service's networks.

The plan, which is tied to the Navy's 2015-19 spending submission, would continue the Obama administration's rebalance to the Pacific by expanding the number of ships in the region to 65 in 2019, an increase of 15 from this year, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert wrote in the four-page plan.

The Navy's "most capable platforms will operate in the Western Pacific," including the newest DDG class of guided-missile destroyers, joint high-speed vessels, Poseidon surveillance planes, Growler fighter jets and other upgraded aircraft, such as the F-35C Joint Strike Fighter.

An additional attack submarine will join three already in Guam in 2015.

“Despite likely sequestration in 2016, our priority is to operate forward where it matters, when it matters, and be ready to address a wide range of threats and contingencies.”

Adm. Jonathan Greenert
chief of naval operations

Rear Adm. William Lescher, the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget, told reporters in March that the service was cutting expenses by halving the number of F-35Cs it would buy during the next five years from 69 to 36.

The Navy has requested \$125.2 billion for fiscal year 2015, about \$400 million less than this year's enacted budget.

“Despite likely sequestration in 2016, our priority is to operate forward where it matters, when it matters, and be ready to address a wide range of threats and contingencies,” Greenert wrote.

The plan, however, made no reference to the Navy's goal of assembling a 306-ship fleet by 2020, as it projected in a 30-year plan submitted to Congress in July. Nor did it broach the subject of wheth-

er the service will maintain its number of aircraft carriers at 11.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has recommended the carrier USS George Washington be retired in 2016, a move that Greenert has said he opposes.

The plan would increase ships in the Middle East from the current 30 to about 40 in 2019. The 10 patrol craft that now operate out of Bahrain will be joined by four littoral combat ships by the end of 2019.

A “low-cost and small footprint” naval presence is planned for the continents of Africa and South America, Greenert wrote. Beginning in 2015, the Navy will deploy one hospital ship a year to South America, followed by one coastal patrol ship each year beginning in 2016.

The plan did not specify deployments to Africa.

Greenert calls on the Navy to sustain “our advantage in the undersea domain” as it adds the 12th Virginia-class attack submarine to the fleet in 2015, with eight more expected to join by 2019.

An unspecified number of guided-missile cruisers and dock landing ships will be modernized to extend their service lives, which Greenert conceded was not his “first choice,” but “budget limits compel us to take this course.”

To beef up cybersecurity, the Navy is establishing a single “cyber-safe” authority to manage the service's networks, platforms and systems “cradle to grave,” the plan stated.

“We are also proceeding to recruit, train and hire almost 1,000 cyber operators and are on track to form 40 cyber mission teams by the end of 2016,” Greenert wrote.

Greenert is expected to release a position report later in this year that reviews the Navy's progress in implementing the objectives of previous navigation plans.

Stars and Stripes reporter Erik Slavin contributed to this report.
olson.wyatt@stripes.com

DOD puts chill on ice bucket challenge

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon dumped a bucket of cold water on servicemembers who want to take the ice bucket challenge in uniform.

The stunt has become popular in recent weeks as a way of raising awareness and millions of research dollars for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Participants in the challenge dump a bucket of ice water over their heads and challenge friends to do the same or donate \$100 to the ALS Association. Many people donate even after getting doused.

An Army spokeswoman cited the Defense Department's Office of General Counsel Standards of Conduct Office to clarify the service's position. She said uniforms and civilian clothes “clearly showing an Army relationship” cannot be worn by employees performing the challenge and posting a video online. A soldier also can't give his Army affiliation aloud or his rank, the spokeswoman, Tatjana Christian, wrote in an email.

“ALS Association is a national non-profit organization,” Christian wrote. “As such, participating in this event is subject to concerns about implied endorsement.”

The popular stunt has swept Facebook and social media in recent weeks, raising awareness and millions of dollars to fight the disease.

An Aug. 1 Facebook post by Peter Frates, who has ALS, is credited with making the challenge viral; the original video dates back to June. Other Facebook users picked up on the challenge before it caught on with celebrities and politicians.

Servicemembers have also joined along. The Navy football team and coaches took ice baths last Friday while wearing Navy football T-shirts. Members of the Navy Blue Angels got soaked in their flight suits on Saturday. The Air Force football coach took the challenge in a jersey on Monday.

Two uniformed midshipmen dumped ice buckets on the superintendent and commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, who then called out other service academy leaders to take the challenge. Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, superintendent at West Point, appeared to have accepted the challenge, with several other officers and senior enlisted, according to the details of a YouTube video posted by West Point.

That video was removed two days ago, soon after it was posted.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
@sbeardsley

4 members of Afghan army injured in bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan — An early morning explosion from a remote-controlled bomb wounded four members of the Afghan National Army in eastern Kabul on Thursday.

The incident occurred about 6:30 a.m. near a bus stop frequented by Afghan army members going to work, a spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the explosion through a spokesman, who claimed three Afghan soldiers were killed in

the blast. The Taliban frequently exaggerate casualties from their attacks.

Though generally considered safer than many areas of the country, Kabul continues to see sporadic attacks on foreigners, servicemembers with the NATO-led International Security Assis-

tance Force and Afghan security forces. Thursday's attack comes a day after an ISAF servicemember was stabbed to death in Kabul. That attack occurred near the Kabul airport, police and Interior Ministry spokesmen said.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

AAFES makes case for all vets to shop online

By TOM PHILPOTT

Allowing 18.8 million honorably discharged veterans to shop online through military exchange services, which also operate brick-and-mortar department stores and concessions on base, could boost store profits enough to pump more than \$100 million back into base quality-of-life programs.

That's part of the "business case" made by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to the Department of Defense's Executive Resale Board this month, where Navy officials still raised concerns over the idea.

Thomas C. Shull, chief executive officer of AAFES, proposed to defense officials several months ago that veterans be allowed to shop online through exchange service websites, to gain the same discounts on thousands of department store items that on-base shoppers enjoy.

AAFES already is working with an outside contractor to modernize and expand its website for online shopping of current patrons, which include active-duty, Reserve and National Guard servicemen, military retirees and families.

Senior policy officials who oversee Navy and Marine Corps

MILITARY UPDATE

exchange services, however, have challenged the idea, fearing "benefit creep" for veterans beyond online shopping into other military support programs. They also believe hurdles to implementing online shopping for all veterans will be higher than AAFES predicts, particularly in finding a foolproof way to verify veteran status and the character of their discharges.

Defense officials, meanwhile, have signaled they want unanimous support of service branches before they will embrace such a dramatic expansion of discount shopping, even if only online. The Executive Resale Board, which resolves disagreements between elements of the military resale system, recently asked Shull to present a business case for opening online shopping to any veteran with an honorable discharge.

Board members representing every service are reviewing that report with comments due back Aug. 29. The board's next scheduled meeting, however, isn't until

Nov. 4. Shull told us earlier he hoped to have his plan approved by Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, and have the benefit available to all qualified veterans a year later.

Each month veterans are denied the opportunity to shop online through armed services exchanges costs the [Department of Defense] \$8 million to \$14 million in earnings and [base Military and Recreation programs] \$5 million to \$9 million in dividends," the AAFES report states.

Here are other points it makes in favor of a veterans' online shopping benefit, what Shull's team now refers to as the "VOSB":

■ **Benefit deserved.** Many servicemembers forced to leave the military in the next 12 to 18 months in a force drawdown will have deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan but won't have a chance to serve full, 20-year careers, the report notes. The offer of online discount shopping through exchanges "is a modest way to show appreciation."

Also, offering veterans online discounts would "encourage ongoing involvement in the military community and sends a clear message to future recruits that our nation values and appreciates every individual's service."

■ **Lean times for exchanges.** Because of the drawdown and falling

exchange patronage, store profits and exchange "dividends" to support morale, welfare and recreational activities on base "will decrease materially." Servicemembers and families will feel the impact on support programs.

From 2011 to 2013, total AAFES sales fell 10.1 percent. If AAFES had not taken aggressive steps to cut overhead, earnings would have fallen sharply along with dividends to quality-of-life programs. Though AAFES expects to come close to its target of \$300 million in revenues in 2014, erosion of the customer base continues and could reduce store earnings to less than \$100 million by 2017.

"Unlike commercial enterprises," bases exchanges "can sell only within a fixed and shrinking customer base," the report says. Exchanges need to expand patronage to veterans and AAFES is well prepared to do so.

■ **Veterans would shop.** Given the value that military retirees place on exchange shopping, spending an average of \$668 there annually, the 90 percent of nonretiree veterans who can't shop on base could be expected to take advantage of shopping discounts even if available only online.

The report projects total exchange sales increasing across a

wide range of possibility, from a low of \$226 million annually to a high of \$1.13 billion. That would generate between \$60 million and \$108 million annually in added dividends to support MWR and quality-of-life programs without any increase in taxpayer support of base stores, according to AAFES' analysis.

The report discusses possible pros and cons of online shopping for veterans and finds only one "true" con — inaction by the department.

Tricare test coverage

A month later than expected, the Defense Health Agency has published online its list of genetic or laboratory-designed tests Tricare now covers under a three-year demonstration that will end on July 18, 2017, if not extended.

Here's the link: <http://www.tricare.mil/ldt>.

Beneficiaries who had to pay for any of those 3 tests since coverage first was denied back to Jan. 1, 2013, might be eligible for reimbursement.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or Twitter: Tom Philpott @MilitaryUpdate.



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

Talking with troops

U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, right, speaks with a soldier Thursday near an A-10 Warthog during a visit to Osan Air Base in South Korea. Work, who arrived in South Korea during the annual Uchi Freedom Guardian exercise, spoke to U.S. troops about a wide range of topics, from the crisis in Iraq to the future of the Air Force's A-10 fleet.

Airman sentenced to 4 more years in second sex case

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — An airman sentenced in 2013 to 20 years in prison for sexual contact with a child was found guilty on child pornography charges in a second court-martial last month in the United States.

Airman basic Johnny A. Escobar was tried on July 11 at Moody

Air Force Base, Ga., during a brief reprieve from serving his sentence at Fort Leavenworth, according to a news release from the 31st Fighter Wing. Escobar was a member of the Aviano-based wing while serving with the 731st Munitions Squadron at Camp Darby.

In the newest court-martial,

he was found guilty of indecent language as well as distributing, viewing and possessing child pornography. The offenses reportedly came to light during an Office of Special Investigation probe after his initial case was settled. A former staff sergeant, Escobar was sentenced to an additional four years in prison. He

was found not guilty on charges of raping his ex-wife.

In his first court-martial, he pleaded guilty to charges of engaging in sexual contact with a minor, taking indecent liberties with the minor, engaging in indecent conduct with a minor and producing and possessing child pornography.

McCain vows support for Tomahawk, A-10

By JOE FERGUSON

The (Tucson) Arizona Daily Star

An 18-foot Tomahawk cruise missile shared the stage with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., here on Tuesday as he addressed a room full of Raytheon Missile Systems employees.

The state's senior senator did all of the talking, but the 3-decade-old missile was the main attraction, with McCain saying he was able to help reverse a Department of Defense decision to cut \$82 million in funding for more missiles.

The decision to cut funding to the aging missile — with a replacement nowhere in sight for at least a decade — was short-sighted, McCain said, noting it was easy to persuade his Senate colleagues to restore funding.

Amid tough language about serious threats to global security

and an absence of leadership on the world stage from the Obama administration, McCain offered bits of good news for the local aerospace industry.

They included:

■ Hundreds of millions of dollars committed for Raytheon and the Israeli-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to jointly produce the Iron Dome system.

■ His firm support for a modernization program for the Tomahawk missile system, extending the useful life of the cruise missile.

■ Progress on a complicated, multiparty land swap near the Tucson International Airport that would allow Raytheon to expand.

■ Continued support to save the A-10 from being mothballed, saying the Pentagon is "nuts" for trying to save money by replacing it with the F-35.

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VETERANS

Lawsuit targets VA policy for same-sex benefits

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Advocacy groups filed a lawsuit here this week challenging the Department of Veterans Affairs on its new policy denying benefits to same-sex spouses who live in states that do not recognize gay marriage.

The VA policy issued in June "writes inequality right back" into the law after a landmark ruling last year that struck down sections of the Defense of Marriage Act and forced the federal government to recognize same-sex couples for a variety of benefits, attorneys for the American Military Partner Association argued in a complaint filed Monday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington.

The department issued its new policy in June after it completed a review of the DOMA decision ordered by the Obama administration. It requires that veterans and their same-sex partners lived in a state that permitted gay marriage at the time of their union or lived in one of those states during the time they earned VA benefits, which include disability pay, home loan guarantees, death pensions and burial rights.

"No member of our community should be left behind just because their home state continues to discriminate against their marriage," according to a released statement by Susan Sommer, director of constitutional litigation at Lambda Legal, a nonprofit advocate for the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people that helped file the lawsuit.

In its argument before the circuit court, the AMPA says the ruling last year on DOMA found that it is unconstitutional to keep federal benefits from legally married same-sex couples.

"The court's opinion specifically singled out ... among DOMA's unconstitutional effects the deprivation of veterans' benefits to same-sex spouses, including denying these veterans and their spouses the dignity and final respect of the right to burial together in veterans' cemeteries," according to the legal complaint.

The VA is withholding benefits from some couples who lived or served in states that do not recognize the unions, despite controversy and legal challenges over those laws.

There are active legal challenges against same-sex marriage bans in 13 states, the National Conference of State Legislatures reported. Meanwhile, the rest of the country is split with 19 states and the District of Columbia recognizing the marriages and 31 states and two U.S. territories that bar them.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to delay an appeals court decision allowing gay marriage in Virginia, again throwing the law in that state into doubt. The state was set to begin recognizing unions performed in Virginia as well as other states

on Thursday before the Supreme Court put on the brakes without providing an explanation for the move, according to media reports.

In recent years, barriers to gay equality have fallen in quick succession — the military lifted its ban on openly gay troops in 2011, many states have legalized same-sex marriage, and the fall of DOMA led to an overhaul of policies at federal agencies.

The debate over veterans' benefits such as disability payments, death pension benefits and burial

rights is a new legal frontier for the civil rights movement.

"Having weathered the federal government's past, longstanding discrimination against them, lesbian and gay veterans and their families find themselves once again deprived of equal rights and earned benefits by the government they served and the nation for which they sacrificed," the legal complaint says.

When approached for this story, the VA said it does not comment on open lawsuits but did provide

some details on its same-sex marriage benefits policy.

Veterans with gay spouses are required to meet the residency standards due to a section of federal law governing VA benefits that still exists despite the DOMA decision. The VA made its June policy decision based on the law.

"In determining whether or not a person is or was the spouse of a veteran, their marriage shall be proven as valid for the purposes of all laws administered by the Secretary according to the law

of the place where the parties resided at the time of the marriage or the law of the place where the parties resided when the right to benefits accrued," the federal code reads.

Meanwhile, the department has begun processing all claims and applications involving same-sex marriages that were previously being held by program offices due to the review of the DOMA decision.

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Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

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CRISIS IN IRAQ



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Above: Martin Banni, center, a seminarian, is responsible for the Christian camp in Irbil, Iraq, which utilizes an unfinished building. Below: Displaced Iraqis find shelter in a sweltering unfinished commercial building in Irbil, Iraq, Aug. 20, 2014. They fled their homes in fear of the Islamic State's advance in the Mosul region.

Thousands of destitute and fearful Christians hopeful the US will continue in Iraq

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — The elderly and exhausted lie listless on thin mattresses strewn on concrete floors in a half-finished warehouse — they are among thousands of Iraqi Christians who have fled Islamic State militants overrunning their towns, finding refuge in the Kurdish-controlled north.

In the Ankawa suburb of the Kurdish capital, Irbil, a makeshift camp for the displaced has been established on four levels of a commercial building under construction behind a row of shops. At night, the hum of generators, smell of wood-burning stoves and low, diffuse light give the place a dystopian feel.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates 200,000 people have fled to the Kurdish region since early August as the Islamic State has expanded its territory, pushing to the edges of areas under Kurdish control.

Islamic State militants have been blamed for kidnapping and slaughtering people of non-Muslim faiths who refuse to convert to Islam, including Christians.

Local churches have donated food and water.

Plastic tarpaulins with U.N. markings screen off sleeping areas and there is a row of latrines at one end of the building.

Martin Banni, 23, a seminarian with the Chaldean Catholic Church, who himself recently fled the Islamic State advance, is overseeing the camp at Ankawa, which is home to 1,000 families. Most came from Karenlash and Qaraqosh, two Christian towns near Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, which the Islamic State seized in June as Iraqi forces fled.

The Christians started arriving two weeks ago, Banni said.

"They escaped with just their clothes and I.D. cards and money," he said. "Many forgot important things. I escaped with just my clothes and passport."

Those who fled feared beheading and rape by the Islamic State forces, he said.

Nadeem Elijah, 38, was still in Karenlash when it was overrun by the Islamists and found himself trapped in his home with his mother and brother as armed militants roamed the streets.



Each day, Islamic State fighters came to the house and threatened the family if they didn't convert to Islam, he said.

Eventually, Elijah said, they made a break for Irbil. When they reached the last Islamic State checkpoint on the road to Kurdish-controlled territory, militants confiscated all their money before letting them pass, he said.

Banni said America was partly responsible for the suffering, blaming Iraq's instability on the U.S. decision to disband the Iraqi army after the 2003 U.S. invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. However, he added that the problems are also of Iraqis' own making.

"We are many religions," Banni said. "We fight about many things. We need to say we are Iraqis before anything else."

Now, those displaced are hoping America will save them, he said.

"If she wants, she can do anything," he said of the United States. "She is the biggest power in the world."

President Barack Obama authorized airstrikes Aug. 7 in part

to protect Yazidis, members of a religious sect, who were trapped on a mountain at Sinjar by Islamic State forces who flushed them from their homes. The strikes were also authorized to protect U.S. personnel in Irbil, as the militants advanced on Kurdish-held territory.

Last week, the U.S. expanded airstrikes to aid Kurdish and Iraqi forces as they pushed back against Islamic State fighters, forcing them from the critical Mosul Dam.

The U.S. should continue to bomb Islamic State targets until its fighters leave the Christian villages they have occupied and the displaced can go home, Banni said.

Amir Sulask Ben, a bank manager from Karakush, fled to Irbil last week with his extended family and thousands of frightened neighbors ahead of the Islamic State advance, he said.

The townsfolk scattered, with some heading for nearby cities such as Dohuk and others crossing the border into Turkey, he said.

Life for the displaced is hard.

"It's too hot and there are many women and children," Ben said. "All of them are very tired."

The U.N. refugee agency this week began an airlift of aid into Irbil, where the displaced are living rough in schools, mosques, churches and unfinished buildings similar to those at Ankawa.

Thousands of tents, plastic sheets, kitchen sets and jerry cans will also be trucked into Kurdistan from Turkey and Iran, UNHCR said.

An estimated 1.2 million Iraqis have been uprooted since the start of the year, including some 600,000 fleeing Islamic State advances in Anbar province since January, and 600,000 displaced in and around Mosul and Sinjar since August, UNHCR reported.

The U.N. is looking to set up more than a dozen camps across Iraq with room for 140,000 people. The displaced have also gathered in the provinces of Sulaymaniyah, Diyala and Kirkuk and the Iraqi government has set up three centers for the displaced in Baghdad, according to UNHCR.

The swift advances by the Islamic State were due in part to sectarian divisions in Iraq, with many Sunnis disillusioned about being shut out by the minority Shiite-led government initially throwing support to the Islamic State fighters.

Ben, the bank manager taking shelter at the Ankawa camp, said his family is split on what to do. His wife wants to go home eventually, but he thinks they should leave Iraq — perhaps, try to join relatives in the U.S.

The experience has left him distrustful of his fellow countrymen.

"I suspect all Muslims are Daash," he said, referring to the Islamic State group by its Arabic acronym.

The Islamic State group and its supporters blame Iraqi Christians for the American bombing campaign, he said.

But the U.S. should continue airstrikes against the militants, he said.

"We want America to attack Daash," he said. "If no Americans attack, then Daash will stay. If no Americans attack, Daash will be here [in Irbil] in 10 days."

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @sethrobson



Thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled Islamic State militants, finding refuge in the North. Photo gallery at stripes.com/displaced

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Extra troops to protect facilities around Baghdad

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The State Department has asked the Pentagon to send additional troops to Iraq to be stationed “in and around Baghdad” to protect diplomatic installations.

One official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said that the number of personnel requested is fewer than 300.

“Military planners are considering it” but no decisions have been made, the official said.

The official could not provide a timeline for when the Pentagon would decide.

Another official told Stars and Stripes that the additional troops, if deployed, would go to the capital to provide extra security for the American Embassy and other facilities.

In recent months, U.S. officials have

feared that the embassy, one of the largest in the world, could potentially come under threat from Islamic State militants.

There are about 850 American troops in Iraq, including 100 or so that are part of the long-standing Office of Security Cooperation.

In June, the Defense Department sent about 450 servicemembers to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities in Baghdad as well as the Baghdad International Airport, which could be used to evacuate American citizens from Iraq if necessary.

The June deployment was precipitated by sweeping advances across Iraq by the Islamic State. Iraqi security forces, buttressed by Shiite militia, have so far been able to prevent significant numbers of militants from reaching the capital.

The official who spoke to reporters is not aware of any specific intelligence about imminent threats that might have prompted the State Department request.

Meanwhile, U.S. military aircraft are continuing to bomb Islamic State targets near the Mosul Dam.

American fighters, attack aircraft and drones conducted 14 strikes Wednesday and another six on Thursday against insurgent Humvees, improvised explosive device emplacements, mortars, and trucks in the area, according to U.S. Central Command.

All U.S. planes involved exited the area safely, CENTCOM said.

Since Aug. 8, when the Pentagon began bombing militant targets at the request of the Iraqi government, the U.S. military has carried out 90 strikes across the country. The majority of those have occurred in recent days as the U.S. began providing air support to Iraqi military and Kurdish peshmerga forces operating on the ground against militants near the Mosul Dam, according to CENTCOM.

Iraqi forces are now in control of the

dam, according to DOD.

The latest rounds of airstrikes and the weighing of whether to send more troops to Iraq comes soon after the Islamic State released a video Tuesday showing the execution of American James Foley, a freelance journalist who previously worked for Stars and Stripes.

The militants said the killing was in retaliation for recent U.S. military moves against them, and they threatened to kill another American reporter who they have captured if the American military effort continues.

The official who spoke to reporters said Foley's execution has not affected the scope of the American military campaign. “There has been no change to the U.S. military mission in Iraq,” according to the official.

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @HarperStripes

Rescue: Servicemember injured during mission to save hostages

FROM FRONT PAGE

“We had a combination of ... intelligence that was sufficient to enable us to act on it,” the official continued, and the military moved “very aggressively, very quickly to try and recover our citizens.”

The official said the effort “was not ultimately successful because the hostages were not present ... at the site of the operation.” Other officials said they were believed to have been there, but that they had been moved up to several weeks before the raid.

In an announcement following the initial publication Wednesday of details about the operation, the White House and Pentagon issued statements confirming that President Barack Obama had authorized the mission following assessments that “these hostages were in danger with each passing day.”

The Islamic State on Tuesday released a video of Foley's execution, which it said was in response to U.S. airstrikes in Iraq. Obama called the beheading “appalling” and “a brutal murder.”

The failed operation “was conducted by a joint force with virtually every service represented,” one of the senior officials said, including “special operators and aircraft both rotary and fixed wing,” with surveillance aircraft overhead.

That official said that there were a “small number” of mild casualties at the site, but that one U.S. servicemember received a “minor injury when one aircraft did take some fire.”

The two senior officials declined to specify the location of the raid, whether the hostages had ever been there, the specific U.S. units that had taken part in the operation or how long they were on the ground. “It wasn't an extraordinarily long period,” one said.

In a statement Wednesday night, National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said: “We never intended to disclose this operation. An overrid-

ing concern for the safety of the hostages and for operational security made it imperative that we preserve as much secrecy as possible. We only went public today when it was clear a number of media outlets were preparing to report on the operation and that we would have no choice but to acknowledge it.”

Other current and former U.S. officials, who were not part of the briefing, said that Foley and others were held at an eastern Syria site near Raqqah, a city that is held by Islamic State fighters.

The officials said that U.S. forces landed modified, heavily armed Black Hawk helicopters flown by the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which works with both the Army's Delta Force and Navy SEAL commands. The regiment is known as the “Night Stalkers.”

The current and former officials also said that unspecified materials belonging to the militants had been seized at the site of the raid.

Obama said Wednesday that the United States “will be vigilant and we will be relentless” against the Islamic State group and would “do what's necessary to see that justice is done” to Foley's killers.

The U.S. Central Command said it had carried out 14 airstrikes in northern Iraq near the Mosul Dam on Wednesday, following Foley's execution. Obama authorized the airstrikes to help Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State, to help rescue besieged civilians, and to protect U.S. personnel and facilities in Iraq.

Since early June, Obama has sent about 800 U.S. troops to Iraq to assist in those missions.

On Wednesday, the State Department requested an additional 300 to help protect the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and a consulate in Irbil, the capital of the northern Kurdish region.

A White House spokesman said no decision had been made on the request.

Foley, 40, was kidnapped in

November 2012 while covering Syria's civil war. According to his employer, the Boston-based website GlobalPost, he was held in eastern Syria with at least a dozen other captives, including other Western journalists, by British members of the Islamic State, which last week sent his family and employer an email threatening to kill him.

“We knew exactly where he was from the released hostages,” GlobalPost president and chief executive Philip Balboni said. “We knew that his immediate

jailers were British jihadists.”

“There was talk of paying a ransom,” Balboni said. “I think the fact that others were released for money certainly gave us hope that a similar outcome could be effected for Jim.”

U.S. policy has long been opposed to paying ransom for hostages, although a number of European governments and companies are believed to have paid for releases.

Six European journalists — two Spaniards and four French — believed to have been held by

the Islamic State were released last spring, although the circumstances of their freedom is not known.

In Britain on Wednesday, Prime Minister David Cameron cut short a family vacation and returned to London to chair emergency meetings on Iraq and Syria, amid indications that a British citizen was involved in Foley's killing.

In the video, his masked executioner speaks in English with what sounds like a British accent.

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NATION

Ferguson an 'unprecedented' tour for Guard

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

FERGUSON, Mo. — Humvees at the Burger King, smoke grenades in the street, police with assault rifles — just a few of the atypical sights in this small, troubled Midwestern town.

There's no Taliban, and protesters aren't planting IEDs. But military uniforms and weaponry used by police and the presence of the National Guard in a suburban confrontation zone seemed more appropriate to military outposts in Afghanistan than a suburb of St. Louis, with its leafy streets and Target Supercenter.

On Thursday, Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to begin a "systematic withdrawal" from Ferguson. He didn't say how soon the withdrawal would be complete and presumably local police armed with Pentagon stock plus weapons and battle rattle will remain.

On the eve of Nixon's order, soldiers in uniform stood guard in a Ferguson mall parking lot serving as a military and police command center.

Some were recently back from Afghanistan, surprised to be called to duty so close to home to help quell riots sparked by a white policeman fatally shooting an unarmed black teen. Shoppers looked on curiously as they strolled by, pushing shopping carts into the Target store.

"It's odd, but we swore to defend the country against enemies, foreign and domestic," said a Missouri National Guard sergeant, who declined to give his name because the Guard warned soldiers not to talk to the media.

Another Guardsman said he had served in Iraq "so it's weird to be called out here." He spoke before being interrupted by a public affairs officer, who told him he was not allowed to be interviewed.

As in Afghanistan, the military is working hard to manage the message. The Missouri National Guard denied Stars and Stripes an "embed," the term used for journalists covering military units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It's an unprecedented operation," said Missouri National Guard spokeswoman Maj. Tammy Spicer.

Managing the media

It all started with the shooting of Michael Brown. The circumstances remain murky, but his death sparked more than a week of protests, which morphed into violence with looting, a gas station being destroyed and police repelling a nearby riot with gunfire Monday. While the chaos has mostly been contained in a half-

mile stretch of road, tensions remain high with no end in sight.

The shooting, the riots and the militarized police response in the St. Louis suburb of 21,000 have sparked a national debate about race and police tactics, prompting Attorney General Eric Holder to visit Wednesday.

Mike O'Connell, spokesman for the Missouri Department of Public Safety, said numbers of troops or police officers were not being released.

"We know people are watching," he said. "If we say we have 100 officers, they will send 100 protesters, etc."

As of press time, it appeared there were only a few dozen Guardsmen around the command center.

After a Missouri state trooper shouted at a Stars and Stripes reporter for taking photos in the parking lot command center, Spicer said the concern stemmed from threats to the post.

"They're worried people taking photos could be causing the place for an attack," she said in a statement that could have easily referred to a base in Afghanistan preparing for an insurgent assault.

Limited mission

The American Civil Liberties Union and others have sharply criticized the state of emergency declared by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, which suspends certain constitutional rights, and the call-up of the National Guard.

Nixon called it necessary "to protect the citizens of Ferguson."

"Given these deliberate, coordinated and intensifying violent attacks on lives and property in Ferguson, I am directing the highly capable men and women of the Missouri National Guard to assist Colonel Ron Replogle and the Unified Command in restoring peace and order to this community," Nixon's statement said.

The soldiers have a very limited mission, at least for now. A statement said they are solely there to protect the command center, manned mostly by local and state police who so far are more heavily armed than the troops.

At night, when the protesters have come out in force, the police have shown up in helmets and heavy bulletproof vests more reminiscent of soldiers. Many carried automatic rifles and stood by heavy armored vehicles.

'Intimidation tactics'

Residents of Ferguson have mixed feelings about the presence of uniformed troops, and many expressed dismay at police using



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Missouri National Guard soldiers watch the entrance to a mall parking lot that has turned into a police and military command center in Ferguson, Mo. Thursday afternoon, Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri National Guard to start withdrawing from Ferguson.

Holder shares personal experiences

By ALAN SCHEER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — To reassure the people of Ferguson, Attorney General Eric Holder reached into his own past, recalling the times he had been stopped by police officers who seemed to target him because of his race.

On a visit to the St. Louis suburb that has endured more than a week of unrest, Holder sought to build confidence in the investigation into the death of the black 18-year-old who was shot by a white officer. The trip also underscored the priority to the Obama administration of civil rights in general and the Michael Brown case in particular.

The attorney general said Wednesday that he understands why many black Americans do not trust police and that he has experienced many of the same frustrations. He described being stopped twice on the New Jersey Turnpike and accused of speeding. Police searched his car, looking through the trunk and under the seats.

"Remember how humiliating that was and how angry I was and the impact it had on me," Holder said during a meeting with about 50 community leaders at the Florissant campus of St. Louis Community College.

Once while living in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, Holder was run-

ning to catch a movie with his cousin when a squad car rolled up and flashed its lights at the pair. The officer yelled, "Where are you going? Hold it!" Holder recalled.

His cousin "started mouth-ing off," and Holder urged him to be quiet.

"We negotiate the whole thing, and we walk to our movie. At the time that he stopped me, I was a federal prosecutor. I wasn't a kid," he said.

Holder also met with federal officials investigating Brown's Aug. 9 death and with Brown's parents. Before getting briefed at the local FBI headquarters, he said he hoped the visit would "have a calming influence" on the area.

In addition, the attorney general met briefly with Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson, who has been in charge of security in Ferguson for nearly a week. The National Guard is also helping to keep the peace.

Asked whether he had confidence in the local investigation of the police officer, Johnson said Holder's presence "is a guarantee on that."

In nearby Clayton, a grand jury began hearing evidence to determine whether the officer, Darren Wilson, should be charged in Brown's death. A spokesman for St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch

said there was no timeline for the process, but it could take weeks.

On Wednesday, police said an officer had been suspended for pointing a semi-automatic assault rifle at demonstrators, then cursing and threatening to kill one of them. A protester captured the exchange on video Tuesday and posted it to YouTube and other websites.

Some protesters returned to the streets Wednesday evening but in diminished numbers. They marched around a single block as a thunderstorm filled the sky with lightning and dumped rain. Police still stood guard, but many wore regular uniforms rather than riot gear.

Johnson said there were six arrests, compared with 47 the previous night, and called it "a very good night." Johnson also said the visit by Holder let people know their voices had been heard.

Holder said the Obama administration has been working to achieve change through the Justice Department's civil rights division.

"The same kid who got stopped on the New Jersey freeway is now the attorney general of the United States," he added. "This country is capable of change. But change doesn't happen by itself."

done.

"I almost cried but I don't think anyone had an answer," he said. "How else do you resolve what has been going on?"

Peering out at the protest zone, Ferguson resident Carmelita Williams summed up the feelings of many around the country.

"Here in the United States?! I couldn't believe it. I guess I didn't want to believe it."

druzin.heath@stars.com
Twitter: @druzin_strips

protests.

A short drive from the protests, the Corner Coffee House seemed a world away, with guests quietly sipping coffee and reading the morning paper — plastered, of course, with coverage of the town.

Chris Shanahan was selling "I Love Ferguson" T-shirts to raise money for a local charity and rebuild pride in his town. He said he was deeply upset at seeing soldiers roll into his community, but understood something had to be

MILITARY

GAO: Bergdahl swap violated law

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense broke the law when it traded Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban prisoners in May, the Government Accountability Office said in a legal opinion issued Thursday.

The department did not notify members of Congress in advance of the trade as required by law and used money not intended for moving prisoners from the United States military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to the government audit agency.

The legal opinion was requested earlier this summer by the Senate Appropriations Committee after lawmakers criticized military leaders and the Obama administration of leaving

them out of the loop on a swap that freed five Taliban combatants captured during the war in Afghanistan.

"We conclude that DOD violated [the law] because it did not notify the relevant congressional committees at least 30 days in advance of the transfer," the GAO opinion said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent emails and made phone calls to congressional leaders on May 31, the day of the prisoner swap.

The GAO said the DOD also violated the Antideficiency Act, which prohibits federal agencies from spending more money than has been appropriated, by using \$988,400 to pick up Bergdahl in Afghanistan and transfer the Taliban to Qatar, where they must remain for a year as part of the deal.

Bergdahl had been held since June 30, 2009, when he disappeared from his post in Pakтика province in eastern Afghanistan.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Tritten: @Travis_Tritten



Bergdahl

Japan likely to expand support for US military

The Yomiuri Shimbun

TOKYO — The Japanese government will likely expand the Self-Defense Forces' support for U.S. forces to include the provision of arms and ammunition as well as airborne refueling to the U.S. military's fighter jets in the event of contingencies surrounding Japan but before Japan exercises its right to self-defense, The Yomiuri Shimbun has learned. That policy will be incorporated in an interim report the government is scheduled to issue next month on revisions to the Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation Guidelines, according to sources.

Current guidelines do not approve Japanese support activities by the SDF. The revision — which reflects July's Cabinet approval of the government's views on security — will enable the SDF to give logistic support to U.S. forces in the event of an emergency on the Korean Peninsula.

The law on contingencies in areas surrounding Japan, which was formulated based on the current guidelines, restricts the SDF to providing logistical support for U.S. forces only in rear areas. While the contingencies law allows the SDF to supply U.S. forces with water and fuel and offer medical treatment to the injured, it does not permit refueling and maintenance work for U.S. fighter jets preparing for combat, even in rear areas, for fear that such support could be construed

as being integrated with the use of force by the U.S. military.

Under its new views on security, which allow limited exercise of the right of collective self-defense, the government believes no problem would arise if SDF support activities are carried out in areas other than places where other countries are actually engaged in battle, the sources said. The government reportedly intends to review its current system of allowing support activities only in "rear areas" it would set up afar from battlegrounds.

In the scheduled revision of the guidelines, the Japanese and U.S. governments have been discussing whether to stipulate an expansion of SDF support activities for U.S. forces in areas where fighting is not taking place, according to the sources.

In the event of emergencies on the Korean Peninsula and other places, the government plans to enable the SDF to provide the U.S. military with arms and ammunition as well as airborne refueling to the U.S. military's fighter jets in addition to the provision of transportation and supplies in areas close to combat zones, the sources said.

By boosting support for U.S. forces, the government hopes to maintain the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. alliance even though the U.S. government is cutting its defense budget.



DEVIN DOSKEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

The first F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter ever to land at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, arrived Sept. 13.

Restrictions delay F-35 software testing

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Flight restrictions on Lockheed Martin's F-35 are hampering the Pentagon's ability to conduct the software tests the plane must pass before it can be declared combat-ready by next July, according to the Pentagon's weapons-testing office.

The start of rigorous in-flight testing on the initial software for the Marine Corps version of the fighter is already five months late, and may be further delayed by the flight restrictions imposed on the 20 test aircraft and 79 training jets after an engine fire on an Air Force F-35 on June 23.

"Many test points remain blocked or difficult to achieve because" of the flight restrictions, Jennifer Elzea, a spokeswoman for Pentagon director of operational testing Michael Gilmore,

said in an emailed statement. "This may cause further delays in completing" testing of the software, she said.

The Defense Department initially grounded the entire fleet of 99 F-35s made by Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed after a fire in a plane at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida forced the pilot to abort a takeoff.

The directive was later eased to imposing a limit on airspeed and requiring an inspection of the engines, made by United Technologies Corp.'s Pratt & Whitney unit, after every three hours of flight. Last week, that was further relaxed to permit test aircraft to fly six hours between engine inspections when evaluating aerial refueling and weapons delivery capabilities, Elzea said.

The progress of the Marine Corps version, the most complex of the three models in the \$398.6

million program, has drawn international attention. Britain and Italy have committed to buying the version, the F-35B, which is designed for short takeoffs and vertical landings on fields and aircraft carriers.

Software is crucial to delivering the promised capabilities of the F-35 and operating its navigation, communications and targeting systems. Each plane will have more than 8 million lines of code once deployed, more than any previous U.S. or allied jet.

The software for the Marine version of the F-35, known as 2B, is undergoing verification on test aircraft to confirm that it meets contract specifications. The second phase of more rigorous software testing has been scheduled to start in October, five months later than planned, according to a June 17 Pentagon software review that was required by Congress.

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NATION

Health records attract efforts by hackers

By JASON MILLMAN
The Washington Post

The recent theft of 4.5 million medical records by Chinese hackers highlights one undeniable truth about health care data: It's valuable, and bad people want it.

In this latest incident, hackers reportedly stole personal data from Community Health Systems patients, including their Social Security numbers, which is an especially coveted piece of information if you want to steal someone's identity. Thankfully for the patients, medical data and credit card numbers apparently were not stolen.

The overall number of health care data breaches is striking. Since 2009, when tough federal mandates began requiring more thorough reporting of those breaches, the Department of Health and Human Services' database has tracked 944 major

incidents affecting personal information from about 30.1 million people. A majority of those records are tied to theft (174 million people), followed by data loss (7.2 million people), hacking (3.6 million people) and unauthorized access (1.9 million people), according to a Washington Post analysis of HHS data.

These numbers don't include the Community Health Systems data breach.

There are also many more incidents of smaller-scale breaches. In 2012, for example, HHS received 21,194 reports of smaller breaches affecting 165,135 people, according to the department's most recent report to Congress. Similar numbers were reported in 2011. In all, data breaches cost the industry \$5.6 billion each year, estimates the Ponemon Institute, a security firm.

Health care data seems to be

increasingly targeted, accounting for 43 percent of major data breaches reported in 2013, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center. That's the first time the health care sector topped the group's annual list, and it's on the same pace for 2014, according to the nonprofit group. The ITRC says the recent jump in health care breaches could be the result of tougher reporting requirements.

A data breach doesn't necessarily mean a patient is at risk of identity theft — a reportable breach could occur when someone loses a laptop with patient data, or some patient records are tossed into a dumpster. However, a 2013 report from the Javelin security firm found that about 25 percent of people who received data breach notices of any kind (not just health care) eventually became victims of identity theft.

Attacks on health care fail in first election test

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Republicans seeking to unseat the Senate incumbent in North Carolina have cut in half the portion of their top issue ads citing the health care act, a sign that the party's favorite attack against Democrats is losing its punch.

The shift — also taking place in competitive states such as Arkansas and Louisiana — shows Republicans are easing off their strategy of criticizing Democrats over the Affordable Care Act now that many Americans are benefiting

from the law and the measure is unlikely to be repealed.

"The Republican Party is realizing you can't really hang your hat on it," said Andrew Taylor, a political science professor at North Carolina State University. "It just isn't the kind of issue it was."

The party had been counting on anti-health care sentiment to spur Republican turnout in its quest for a U.S. Senate majority, just as the issue did when the party took the House in 2010. This election is the first since the law was fully implemented.

Supreme Court puts Va. same-sex marriages on hold

By ROBERT BARNES
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday stopped Virginia officials from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, putting on hold a lower-court ruling that said the unions could start Thursday.

The court stayed a decision by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, which on July 28 agreed with a district judge's ruling that Virginia's ban is unconstitutional. The same panel declined last week to delay its ruling.

The Supreme Court's action was expected. Its one-paragraph order came without noted dissent from any of the nine justices and was consistent with its decision granting a stay in Utah, another state where a ban was found unconstitutional.

The decision indicates that the high court wants additional lower courts to weigh in instead of giving what might be construed as implied approval of an unbroken string of federal court decisions striking down state bans on same-sex marriages.

Virginia clerks and clergy had begun preparing for a stream of same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses. But the order brought an abrupt halt to those preparations, which included new state forms that substituted the word "spouses" for "bride and groom."

In Arlington County, Circuit Court Clerk Paul Ferguson had redeployed staff to help process licenses and set aside a jury room

for an overflow crowd. The group People of Faith for Equality in Virginia had lined up more than 50 clergy to be on hand at court-houses Thursday morning to officiate.

The Supreme Court stepped in after defenders of the law and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, asked for a stay. Herring believes the law is unconstitutional and joined those challenging it, but he said it would be disruptive to allow marriages to begin before the Supreme Court decided the ultimate question of whether state bans violate the U.S. Constitution.

Herring said in a conference call with reporters that he knew the action was disappointing to same-sex couples, but that he was "going to fight as hard as I can" to get the Supreme Court to agree to decide the ultimate question of whether states are prohibited from withholding the fundamental right to marry from gay couples.

Challengers of the Virginia ban and supporters of the voter-approved measures restricting marriage to a man and a woman have asked the court to use Virginia as a test case to decide the issue.

In the order, the justices said only that the stay would remain in effect until they decided whether to take the Virginia case. If so, the stay would remain in place until the court rendered a final decision.

The court could consider as early as next month whether to accept the Virginia case, but there is no deadline for a decision.



AUSTIN ANTHONY, THE (BOWLING GREEN, KY.) DAILY NEWS/AP

Soggy stroll

A woman hurries through the rain Wednesday on Western Kentucky University's campus in Bowling Green, Ky.

Texas Gov. Perry enters not-guilty plea

By PAUL J. WEBER
AND WILL WEISSETR
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry has formally pleaded not guilty to criminal charges of leveraging his power to try to oust a Democratic district attorney convicted of drunken driving, according to court documents obtained Wednesday.

The potential 2016 presidential candidate entered his plea in a Travis County court filing. He also waived an arraignment that had been set for Friday.

The waiver was no surprise

given that Perry has signaled no intention of letting the felony charges interrupt a busy travel schedule to court Republican voters.

The governor has dismissed the case as a political ploy, laughing off concerns that it could be potentially unflattering as he strongly considers a second presidential run. Many top national conservatives are lining up to support him, including some potential future White House rivals.

Perry's plea was filed with the court late Tuesday, shortly after the longest-serving governor in

Texas history was fingerprinted and had his mug shot taken. He tweeted a picture of himself stopping for vanilla ice cream on the way back from his booking.

Perry was indicted last week on charges of coercion and official oppression for vetoing \$7.5 million for the state public integrity unit, which investigates wrongdoing by elected officials and is run by the Travis County district attorney's office. Perry threatened the veto if the county's Democratic district attorney, Rosemary Lehmberg, stayed in office after a drunken-driving conviction.

NATION



MELANIE KIMBLE-LAGO, WATERTOWN (N.Y.) DAILY TIMES/AP

New York State Police crime scene investigators look through documents at the home of suspected kidnappers Stephen Howells II and Nicole F. Vaisey in Hermon, N.Y., on Aug. 14.

Hearing set in Amish girls' kidnapping, sex abuse in NY

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — A woman accused along with her boyfriend of abducting two young Amish sisters from a farm stand and sexually abusing them is due in court for a preliminary hearing.

Nicole Vaisey, 25, was expected to be in court Thursday.

The couple from Hermon were arrested Aug. 15, accused of abducting the 7-year-old and 12-year-old sisters from the family's rural farm stand near the Canadian border. The sisters turned

up the next night at the door of a house 15 miles from their home.

St. Lawrence County District Attorney Mary Rain said last week that they were sexually abused and other charges are likely.

Vaisey's lawyer said she was the victim of an abusive relationship. "She was in a master-slave relationship," with boyfriend Stephen Howells Jr., 39, said attorney Bradford Riendeau. "I believe she's not as culpable as he is."

Howells waived his right to a preliminary hearing and his case will go straight to a grand jury.

There was no answer late Tuesday at the county public defender's office, which is representing Howells.

The couple are in jail without bail.

The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sexual abuse and is not naming the girls.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff Kevin Wells said the couple were prowling for easy targets and may have planned to abduct other children. He said the girls were able to provide details to investigators about their time in captivity.

Poll: Backing for Common Core declining

By T. REES SHAPIRO
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A year ago, the term Common Core meant little to the American public. But today, a vast majority of people in the country are familiar with the nationwide educational standards and most of them oppose the initiative touted by the Obama administration, a new survey shows.

The results of an annual poll by Gallup and the Phi Delta Kappa educators' organization provide more evidence that support for the Common Core State Standards, originally adopted by 46 states and the District of Columbia, has faded in recent years. The survey showed that those who opposed the standards thought that the Common Core will hurt teachers' ability to craft lessons that they think will be best for the students. The latest survey results echo findings from other polls on Common Core support.

"It's pretty apparent that the Common Core has become a polarizing term," said Terry Holliday, the education commissioner of Kentucky, which was among the first states to adopt the standards in 2010.

The wide-ranging survey also showed that trust in the nation's public school system has evaporated, as a consistent majority of Americans approve of charter

schools that operate independently of state regulations.

Overall, more than 70 percent of Americans give President Barack Obama a C, D or F grade in his support to public schools, the lowest rating he has received on the poll since he took office in 2009.

Survey participants said that the top issue facing public schools is a lack of financial support, while concern about discipline issues or crime in schools is dropping.

Respondents also said that they placed more trust in their local school boards when it comes to educational policy issues than they trust the federal government. The survey showed the Obama administration influence waning as many Americans believe that the federal government should play a smaller role in public education.

On average, respondents said they thought highly of their neighborhood schools. But the poll showed that nearly 80 percent of Americans disapprove of the nation's public schools at large.

The poll also showed that 68 percent of public school parents believed that standardized tests are not helpful for teachers measuring student achievement.

The poll also showed overwhelming support for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams and college entrance tests such as the SAT and the ACT.

Mystery pair in selfies sought after burglary

The Associated Press

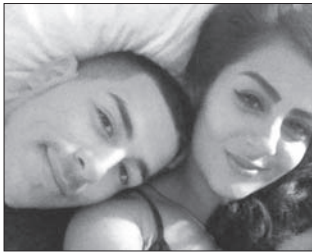
SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — Would burglars be dumb enough to post selfies on their victim's cloud account?

That's what Los Angeles County Sheriff's investigators are trying to determine.

Detectives on Wednesday released photos of a man and a woman that mysteriously appeared on a Santa Clarita woman's online account days after thieves broke into her home through a window and ransacked the place.

The crooks stole cash and either her cellphone or tablet, Deputy Joshua Dubin said.

The photos, apparently taken with the stolen device, were uploaded to the woman's account after the July 30 break-in, he said. They show a smiling man with short, dark hair, a smiling woman with longer, brownish hair, thickly painted eyebrows and heavy mascara, and a shot of the two together posing on a pillow.



COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/AP

Two people appear in an undated selfie portrait found on the cloud account of a Southern California burglary victim.

The victim doesn't know the pair, who are considered "persons of interest," and investigators want to talk to them, Dubin said.

"Did they buy stolen property? I don't know. Or are they the residential burglary suspects?" Dubin said. "There needs to be an explanation as to why their selfies are showing up on this person's cloud account."

Last 4 hostages freed in suburban Chicago standoff

The Associated Press

HARVEY, Ill. — About two dozen heavily armed law enforcement officers stormed a home in Chicago's southern suburbs Wednesday to free four remaining hostages and captured two suspects, ending a 20-hour standoff that police say began as a robbery attempt.

Two women and two children were freed midmorning from the home in the small city of Harvey, with the captors at one point firing through a second-floor door as officers rushed toward it down a hallway, said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

Footage shot by a TV news helicopter showed officers with body armor, shields and rifles rushing toward the home from two directions and sweeping in through the front door as other officers aimed weapons and took cover near two large armored vehicles parked

out front.

Four children had been freed overnight after hours of talks and the hostage-takers were given cigarettes in exchange, Dart said.

The decision to send armed officers in came after nearly continuous negotiations, during which the hostage-takers intermittently issued threats, saying "they were going to kill the kids ... to kill everybody," the sheriff told The Associated Press in a phone interview later Wednesday.

"It was a roller-coaster ride," said Dart, who had been on the scene during the all-night talks. "It went from idle chatter to threats, then back to idle chatter to threats again."

The shots through the door missed officers running up stairs and down the hallway, and officers immediately broke through the door and managed to subdue the hostage-takers, Dart said.

WORLD

Israeli airstrike kills 3 senior Hamas leaders

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed three senior Hamas military commanders Thursday, delivering a likely blow to the organization's morale and highlighting the long reach of Israel's intelligence services.

The strike marked a further escalation in fighting after Egyptian efforts to end the war collapsed earlier this week, and signaled no end in sight for violence that has killed more than 2,000 Palestinians and 67 Israelis.

The pre-dawn strike leveled a four-story house in a densely populated neighborhood of the southern town of Rafah, killing six people, including the three senior Hamas commanders.

Israel said the trio had played a key role in expanding Hamas' military capabilities in recent years, including digging attack tunnels leading to Israel, training fighters and smuggling weapons to Gaza.

Thousands of Palestinians marched through Rafah in a funeral procession Thursday afternoon firing guns, waving flags of different militant groups and chanting religious slogans. Those killed were carried aloft through the crowd on stretchers, wrapped

in green Hamas flags.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, said Israel "will not succeed in breaking the will of our people or weaken the resistance," and that Israel "will pay the price."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the "superior intelligence" of the Shin Bet security service and the military's "precise execution" of the attack.

An Israeli defense official said that tens of thousands of reserve soldiers would be called up for duty later Thursday. The official spoke anonymously as he is not allowed to brief the media. About 2,000 reservists who were sent home about two weeks ago, when the violence appeared to have subsided, were called back for service on Wednesday.

The killing of the three Hamas commanders will likely buy Netanyahu some time as the Israeli public becomes increasingly impatient with the government's inability to halt rocket fire from Gaza.

Gaza police and witnesses said several missiles hit the four-story building. Israel and Hamas identified the three commanders killed in the 3 a.m. airstrike as Mohammed Abu Shamaleh, Raed Attar and Mohammed Barhoum.

In pinpointing the whereabouts of the Hamas commanders, Isra-



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

A Palestinian man chants angry slogans as rescue workers search for victims under the rubble of a house destroyed in Israeli strikes in the Rafah refugee camp, Southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday. Three senior Hamas military commander were reported killed in the strike.

el likely relied to some extent on local informers. Israel has maintained a network of informers despite its withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, in some cases using blackmail or the lure of exit permits to win cooperation.

Al Majd, a website linked to the Hamas security services, said Thursday that seven suspected informers were arrested in recent days and that three were killed "after the completion of the revolutionary procedures against them."

It was the second time during the Gaza war that the website announced suspected informers had been killed by Hamas.

The Rafah attack came a day after an apparent Israeli attempt to kill the top Hamas military leader, Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike on a house in Gaza City. Deif's wife and an infant son were killed in that strike, but the on Hamas military wing said Deif was not in the targeted home at the time.

The body of his daughter, 5-year-old Sara Deif, was recovered from underneath the rubble on Thursday, the Gaza Health Ministry said.

The back-to-back targetings of top Hamas military leaders came after indirect Israel-Hamas negotiations in Cairo on a sustainable

truce broke down Tuesday. Gaza militants resumed rocket fire on Israel, even before the formal end of a six-day truce.

Since then, Gaza militants have fired dozens more rockets, and Israeli aircraft have struck dozens of targets in Gaza, dimming prospects for a resumption of the talks.

For now, the sides are sticking to unbridgeable demands. Hamas is demanding an end to an Israeli-Egypt blockade of Gaza. Israel, unwilling to grant Hamas any major concession it could claim as a victory in the six-week war, is demanding that Hamas disarm

Ukraine fight rages as convoy advances

BY NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Parts of eastern Ukraine were wracked by fierce fighting Thursday as government troops sought to snatch back territory from separatist rebels, while a Russian aid convoy to the hard-hit city of Luhansk began to make tentative steps toward its destination.

Russia has been trying to send in more than 200 trucks carrying what it says is humanitarian aid to help civilians in Luhansk, but Ukraine fears the move is a ploy to aid the pro-Russian separatists.

The convoy has been held up at the border for a week in a dispute over the conditions under which Ukraine will let in the Russian trucks.

Ukraine has accused Russia of arming and supporting the separatists since fighting began in mid-April, which Russia denies.

Some Russian aid trucks began the process of clearing customs at the Russian border next to a rebel-held border post in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian border guard service said.

Ukrainian troops have made significant advances into rebel-held territory this



SERGEI GRITS/AP

People draw up documents for border crossing at a border control point with Ukraine in the Russian town of Donetsk, Rostov-on-Don region, Russia, on Thursday as fighting in Ukraine continues.

week in a conflict that has already claimed more than 2,000 lives and forced more than 340,000 people to flee their homes.

Fighting was still reported Thursday in Luhansk, a day after the government said it had captured much of the rebel stronghold 12 miles from the Russian border, Andriy

Lysenko, spokesman for the Ukrainian National Security Council, said in Kiev.

Meanwhile, five troops were killed and two civilians died in the past 24 hours in rebel-held areas, authorities said. That followed more than 50 deaths in the region Wednesday.

Russia targets McDonald's

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian news agencies reported Thursday that the country's food safety agency will conduct checks on McDonald's restaurants in the Urals following food safety complaints, a day after four branches of the chain were shuttered in Moscow.

Natalya Lukyantseva, an official in the Sverdlovsk regional office of the agency, told RIA Novosti and Interfax that unplanned checks were being carried out in a number of restaurants after residents voiced safety concerns.

The inspections come one day after the agency, known in Russian as Rospotrebnadzor, ordered four Moscow-based restaurants to suspend operations, citing "numerous" sanitary law breaches.

One of those restaurants, on Moscow's central Pushkin Square, was the first to open in the Soviet Union in 1990, drawing crowds of thousands that circled around the block.

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stars as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stars reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



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2013 National Headline Awards –
Second Place: News Series
(Forever After: A Warrior Wounded;
A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign –
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Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year –
Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award –
Breaking News Photography
(Newspaper Circulation 100,001+
or Affiliated Website/National
Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch:
"For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary
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Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

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and Editors Awards –
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($< 100,000$ circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

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(Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

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WORLD

Booming business

Violence keeps bomb disposal expert busy

By TIM CRAIG
The Washington Post

In a country awash in bombs, Shafqat Malik races against time.

He has discovered some of the world's biggest bombs—8,000-pound bundles of explosives hidden in trucks—and some of the tiniest, slipped into Coke cans. He has defused bombs secreted in computers and television sets and disabled a suicide vest before its wearer could blow himself up.

Malik is one of Pakistan's top explosives experts and head of the police Bomb Disposal Unit in one of the country's most conflictive provinces—Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near the Afghan border. His job offers a window into a country suffering not just from Islamist extremism but a broader breakdown in order, with bombs planted by extortionists, people fleeing over money and property, and assassins targeting religious minorities.

"Let me assure you, everyone is a target," Malik, 49, said during a recent interview, moments after one of his staffers brought in two grenades that had been thrown at a police vehicle.

Last year, 4,268 civilians were killed or wounded in Pakistan because of explosive devices, according to Action on Armed Violence, a London-based group that monitors violence. Only Iraq and Syria logged more casualties from bombings, the group noted.

The problem has grown so severe that

Malik and his 440-member team even examine bodies before funerals to make sure they are not booby-trapped by terrorists or personal enemies.

Many analysts say the increasingly pervasive culture of bombings can be traced to the 1980s, when Pakistan hosted hundreds of thousands of Islamic fighters battling the Soviet army in Afghanistan. Pakistan worked with the United States and other countries to make sure the guerrillas were trained to use land mines and plastic explosives, said Saad Muhammad, a retired Pakistan Army brigadier.

'If Mr. Malik didn't join the Bomb Disposal Unit, there would be no Bomb Disposal Unit at all.'

Wasal Kahn
bomb technician

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Islamist extremists began shifting their fight toward Pakistan. They were aided by the remnants of al-Qaida, which had chemists and engineers capable of making bombs, Muhammad said.

"We should have realized when we embarked on the jihad in Afghanistan, that this was a very dangerous game we were playing," said Muhammad, who served as Pakistan's military attaché to Afghanistan from 2003-05. "At the time, nobody gave a thought to the endgame."



MAX BECHERER, THE WASHINGTON POST/Polaris Images

Shafqat Malik, head of the police Bomb Disposal Unit in the Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, fills out reports and inspects evidence in Peshawar, Pakistan.

As the violence increased in the mid-2000s, Malik was thrust onto the frontlines of a new kind of war.

He had become a highly specialized ammunition and explosives expert during a two-decade career in the Pakistani army, a time of considerable tension between Pakistan and long-standing rival India. In 2006, he retired from the military and went to work as a counterterrorism investigator for the Federal Investigation Agency. It was the start of a tumultuous new chapter for him, involving some of Pakistan's grisliest tragedies.

In the early days, he said, suicide bombers "didn't know what they were doing" and would just sit on a suitcase packed with explosives and hope it detonated.

But terrorists gradually became more sophisticated, transitioning from wearing bulky vests packed with explosives to sleeker belts and using remote-control triggers that made it harder for suicide bombers to abort their mission, he said.

Since taking charge in January 2009, Malik has increased the number of bomb technicians on the Peshawar-based unit from about 35 to 440. He also has sought donations from U.S. and European governments of robots, sniffer dogs and armored vehicles.

Over five years, his squad has encountered more than 5,500 devices, Malik said. But bombs are still found in Peshawar just about every day.

The provincial bomb technicians earn just \$230 a month, including a paltry 50 cents or so a month in hazard pay, and complain they still lack equipment. But many say they are proud to work for Malik.

"If Mr. Malik didn't join the Bomb Disposal Unit, there would be no Bomb Disposal Unit at all," said Wasal Khan, who has defused more than 150 IEDs over the past five years.

Malik has had so many threats on his life that he keeps a file of the letters in his desk drawer.

The most serious attempt against him occurred in 2010, when he was investigating an attack on a police vehicle in Peshawar, he said.

As he surveyed the crime scene, he noticed a young woman in a black burqa moving toward him. As she approached, a small explosion suddenly tore off her left shoulder, killing her.

When Malik rushed over to the woman's body, he noticed she was wearing a vest loaded with explosives. Some had apparently gone off, he said.

Malik bent down and, his hands covered with blood, began dismantling what remained of the device. He tried to avoid looking at the woman's intact face.

"You are imagining the fate of your life if she had succeeded," Malik said.

Washington Post staff writer Aiman Iqbal contributed to this report.



MAX BECHERER, THE WASHINGTON POST/Polaris Images

Abdul Raheem, a member of the police Bomb Disposal Unit in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, displays a bomb's timer in Peshawar, Pakistan last month.

Liberian slum calm day after clashes

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Calm returned Thursday to the slum of West Point in Liberia's capital that was sealed off in the government's desperate attempt to halt the spread of Ebola, a day after clashes erupted between residents and troops and police who were enforcing the quarantine.

Three Liberians currently receiving ZMapp, an experimental and unproven treatment for Ebola, in Liberia — the first and so far only Africans to get the drug — were showing "very positive signs of recovery," Liberia's information ministry said earlier this week. A Spaniard who had contracted Ebola and also received the treatment died. The drug supply is now exhausted, the U.S. manufacturer has said.

Officials from the World Health Organization were visiting two hospitals in Monrovia on Thursday that are treating Ebola patients. The two treatment centers are struggling to keep up with the influx of patients. Liberia is being hit especially hard by the dreaded virus that has killed more than 1,300 people in Liberia, Sierra



AP/WIDEWORLD

Women from West Point carry water for sale Thursday in Monrovia, Liberia. Calm returned to West Point on Thursday, a day after clashes erupted between residents and security forces over the government's quarantine of the town in an effort to stop the spread of Ebola.

Leone, Guinea and Nigeria.

A nationwide nighttime curfew, first imposed countryside in Liberia on Wednesday night, appeared to have been put in place without major incident.

The current outbreak in West Africa is the largest ever, and officials have said that treatment centers, especially in Liberia, are filling up faster than new ones can be opened or expanded. That leaves the sick packing hallways, potentially infecting more people.

Ebola is transmitted by direct contact with the bodily fluids of someone who is sick and showing symptoms. To stop its spread, experts say, the sick should be isolated and not have any contact

with the healthy.

Overcrowded treatment centers, a reluctance on the part of sick people to seek medical care and burial practices that involve touching the dead have helped fuel the disease's spread in West Africa.

With at least 2,473 people sickened, this outbreak now has more recorded cases than in the previous two-dozen outbreaks combined.

Several counties and districts in Sierra Leone and Liberia have been cordoned off, and there are concerns this is slowing the supply of food and other goods to these areas. The World Food Program is preparing to feed 1 million people affected by such

travel restrictions.

Many residents of West Point, located on a peninsula in the seaside capital, are fearful they'll be cut off from food since many market traders are stuck behind the barricades. Food prices were already rising Wednesday.

Several airlines have also suspended flights to the affected countries, despite the World Health Organization's advice that Ebola is unlikely to spread through air travel. Guinea's president, Alpha Conde, met airline representatives and foreign diplomats on Wednesday to reassure them that Guinea is screening passengers leaving the country for fever and other symptoms, in line with WHO recommendations.

American aid worker set for release from Ga. hospital

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — At least one of the two American aid workers infected with the Ebola virus in Africa is set to be discharged Thursday from an Atlanta hospital, the aid group he was working for said.

Alison Geist, a spokeswoman for Samaritan's Purse, confirmed Dr. Kent Brantly would be released Thursday but could not say what time.



Brantly

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse, said in a statement that Brantly has recovered.

"Today I join all of our Samaritan's Purse team around the world in giving thanks to God as we celebrate Dr. Kent Brantly's recovery from Ebola and release from the hospital," Graham's statement said.

Brantly and Nancy Writebol were flown out of the west African nation of Liberia earlier this month and have been getting treatment for the deadly disease in an isolation unit at the hospital.

The two were infected while working at a missionary clinic outside Liberia's capital.

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WORLD

Noodle lovers reject study

By FOSTER KLUG
AND JUNG-YOON CHOI
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Kim Min-koo has an easy reply to new American research that hits South Korea where it hurts — in the noodles. Drunk and hungry just after dawn, he rips the lid off a bowl of his beloved fast food, wobbling on his feet but still defiant over a report that links instant noodles to health hazards.

"There's no way any study is going to stop me from eating this," says Kim, his red face beaded with sweat as he adds hot water to his noodles in a Seoul convenience store. His mouth waters, wooden chopsticks poised above the softening strands, his glasses fogged by steam. At last, he spears a slippery heap, lets forth a mighty, noodle-cooling blast of air and starts slurping.

This is the best moment — the first bite," Kim, a freelance film editor who indulges about five times a week, says between gulps. "The taste, the smell, the chewiness — it's just perfect."

Instant noodles carry a broke college student aura in America, but they are an essential, even passionate, part of life for many in South Korea and across Asia. Hence the emotional heartburn caused by a Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital study in the United States that linked instant noodle consumption by South Koreans to some risks for heart disease.

The study has provoked feelings of wounded pride, mild guilt, stubborn resistance, even nationalism among South Koreans, who eat more instant noodles per capita than anyone in the world.

Many of those interviewed vowed, like Kim, not to quit. Other noodle lovers offered up techniques they swore kept them healthy: taking Omega-3, adding vegetables, using less seasoning, avoiding the soup. Some dismissed the study because the hospital in-



KOJI SASAHARA/AP

Japanese instant ramen noodle expert Masaya "Instant" Oyama, 55, slurps noodles at a shop and restaurant specializing only in varieties of instant noodles in Tokyo. A recent health study from an American hospital has irritated many instant noodle lovers across Asia.

volved is based in cheeseburger-gobbling America.

The heated reaction is partly explained by the omnipresence here of instant noodles, which, for South Koreans, usually mean the spicy, salty "ramyeon" that costs less than a dollar a package.

Individually-wrapped disposable bowls and cups are everywhere: Internet cafes, libraries, trains, ice-skating rinks.

Elderly South Koreans often feel deep nostalgia for instant noodles, which entered the local market in the 1960s as the country began clawing its way out of the poverty and destruction of the Korean War into what's now Asia's fourth-biggest economy. Many vividly remember their first taste of the once-exotic treat, and hard-drinking South Koreans consider instant noodles an ideal remedy for aching, alcohol-laden bellies and subsequent hangovers.

Some people won't leave the country without them, worried they'll have to eat inferior noodles abroad. What could be better at relieving homesickness than a salty shot of ramyeon?

Ko Dong-ryun, 36, an engineer from Seoul, fills half his luggage with instant noodles for international business travel, a lesson he learned after assuming on his first trip that three packages would suffice for six days. "Man, was I wrong. Since then, I always make sure I pack enough."

The U.S. study was based on South Korean surveys in 2007-09 of more than 10,700 adults ages 19-64, about half of them women. It found that people who ate a

diet rich in meat, soda and fried and fast foods, including instant noodles, were associated with an increase in abdominal obesity and LDL, or "bad," cholesterol. Eating instant noodles more than twice a week was associated with a higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome, another heart risk factor, in women but not in men.

The study raises important questions, but can't prove that instant noodles are to blame rather than the overall diets of people who eat lots of them, cautions Alice Lichtenstein, director of the cardiovascular nutrition lab at Tufts University in Boston.

"What's jumping out is the sodium [intake] is higher in those who are consuming ramen noodles," she said. "What we don't know is whether it's coming from the ramen noodles or what they are consuming with the ramen noodles."

There's certainly a lot of sodium in those little cups. A serving of the top-selling instant ramyeon provides more than 90 percent of South Korea's recommended daily sodium intake.

Still, it's tough to expect much nutrition from a meal that costs around 80 cents, said Choi Yong-min, 44, marketing director for Paldo, a South Korean food company.

By value, instant noodles were the top-selling manufactured food in South Korea in 2012, the most recent year figures are available, with about \$1.8 billion worth sold, according to South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety.

China is the world's largest in-

stant noodle market, according to the World Instant Noodles Association, although its per capita consumption pales next to South Korea's. The food is often a low-end option for Chinese people short of money, time or cooking facilities.

Japan, considered the spiritual home of instant noodles, boasts a dazzling array.

Masaya "Instant" Oyama, 55, who said he eats more than 400 packages of instant noodles a year, rattled off a sampling: Hello Kitty instant noodles, polar bear instant noodles developed by a zoo, black squid ink instant noodles.

In South Korea, it's all about speed, cost and flavor.

Thousands of convenience stores have corners devoted to noodles: Tear off the top, add hot water from a dispenser, wait a couple minutes and it's ready to eat, often at a nearby counter.

Some even skip the water, pounding on the package to break up the dry noodles, adding the seasoning, then shaking everything up. "It's toasty, chewy, much better than most other snacks out there," Byon Sarah, 28, who owns a consulting company, said of a technique she discovered in middle school.

At the comic book store she runs in Seoul, Lim Eun-jung, 42, said she noticed a lot more belly fat about six months after she installed a fast-cooking instant noodle machine for customers.

"It's obvious that it's not good for my body," Lim said. "But I'm lazy, and ramyeon is the perfect fast food for lazy people."

Hazelnut shortage is bad news for Nutella lovers

By ROBERTO A. FERDMAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — There's bad news for fans of Nutella, the chocolate hazelnut spread.

Poor weather in Turkey, the world's largest producer of hazelnuts, is causing a major shortage of the nuts. The Turkish industry, which is responsible for growing some 70 percent of the world's hazelnuts — is facing what could be a hazelnut crop that's more than 30 percent below original expectations, according to the Guardian.

As a result, the price of hazelnuts has spiked by more than 60 percent so far this year and more than doubled since last fall.

While rising hazelnut prices are likely to prove a nuisance for a number of global chocolate-makers, the most vulnerable appears to be Nutella-maker Ferrero group. That's because Ferrero now buys as much as a quarter of the world's hazelnuts, and relies heavily on Turkey to supply the 50 hazelnuts it takes to produce each 13 ounce jar of Nutella.

Nutella's global value chain, which the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development mapped out last year, spans the globe. Ferrero is headquartered in Italy, but has factories on several continents, and sources its ingredients from several others. The hazelnuts are from Turkey, but the palm oil comes from Malaysia, and the cocoa from Nigeria.

The good news for Nutella lovers is that Ferrero acquired Turkish company Oltan Group, a leading manufacturer of Turkish hazelnuts. Having its hand in the cookie jar, so to speak, allows Ferrero to protect itself somewhat from market pressures, like the current hazelnut shortage.

The bad news is that the odds appear to be stacking up against the world's favorite hazelnut spread. Hazelnut prices aren't the only Nutella ingredient whose cost is on the rise. Palm oil, which is roughly 20 percent of the spread, has also been getting more expensive on the heels of rising demand and weather-dampened supply. So has cocoa, another key ingredient in the spread. Hazelnut prices are up by more than 40 percent since last year.

None of that means a shortage of Nutella, but if the circumstances in Turkey, Nigeria and Southeast Asia persist, don't be surprised if the 250,000 tons of Nutella Ferrero sells in more than 75 countries around the world starts carrying a slightly higher sticker price.



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WORLD

Searchers scour Hiroshima mudslide area

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese police said the death toll from rain-triggered landslides on the outskirts of Hiroshima rose to 39 on Thursday with 51 people still missing as search efforts continued in the devastated area.

Hillides caved in or were swept down into residential areas in at least five valleys in the suburbs of the western Japanese city on Wednesday, crushing dozens of houses after heavy rains.

Hiroshima prefectural police said 39 people were confirmed dead and 51 were missing as of midday Thursday. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 23 people were injured, 13 seriously. A police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with official policy, said

there was a possibility of some inaccuracies in the tally.

About 2,500 police and military personnel searched for the missing in the mud-covered areas.

Hiroshima city officials have faced criticism because their initial evacuation advisory came an hour after the first mudslide. Officials said their response was delayed because the land collapsed so quickly at multiple locations.

Landslides are a constant risk in mountainous, crowded Japan, where many homes are built on or near steep slopes. Torrential rains early Wednesday apparently caused slopes to collapse in areas where many of the buildings were newly constructed.

Hiroshima's geology, consisting of highly water-retentive soil, makes the city particularly prone to such disasters, experts say.



Kyodo News/AP

Police officers search for missing residents in a mud- and rubble-covered residential area following a massive landslide in Hiroshima, Japan, on Thursday.

Merkel seeks to raise Germany's diplomatic profile

By GEIR MOULSON

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's emergence as a leader in efforts to resolve Ukraine's crisis — showcased by a visit to Kiev this weekend — underlines Germany's increasing ambition to transform itself from economic power to diplomatic heavyweight.

Merkel and her foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, have put Berlin at the forefront of so-far frustrating diplomatic efforts, as many European nations focus on domestic troubles and the U.S. is engaged in crises elsewhere.

Nearly nine years in power and an unchallenged leader at home, Merkel has thrown Germany's weight behind European economic sanctions against Russia, while also keeping up months of frequent telephone diplomacy with President Vladimir Putin.

Merkel "is aware that no other



Michael Sohn/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will meet with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kiev this weekend.

institution can take on this mediation role," said Olaf Boehnke, who heads the Berlin office of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a multinational think-tank. "The Americans don't fit as mediators and ... no one else

in the EU has this authority that Merkel enjoys."

Merkel's visit to Kiev on Saturday, her first since the Ukraine crisis erupted late last year, reflects Berlin's desire to show support for President Petro Poroshenko's government in the face of what the West says is Russian efforts to foment rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

It follows a trip Monday to Latvia, a former Soviet republic that like many new eastern NATO and European Union members increasingly worries about the perceived threat from Russia.

There, Merkel stressed that NATO's collective defense clause "must be brought to life" if the situation requires, but also made clear that there will be "no permanent stationing of combat troops" on the alliance's eastern edge — something that would infuriate Moscow.

That reflects Germany's balancing act of seeking to preserve

Western unity while also keeping open lines of communication with Moscow, which Berlin stresses must be part of a political solution to the conflict.

Germany's status as a nation formerly divided between east and west and its tradition of seeking political detente and economic ties with Russia put it in a good position to mediate. And Germany isn't overly dependent on a nation that was only its No. 11 trading partner last year.

"Sanctions alone are not a foreign policy," Steinmeier told ZDF television on Tuesday, noting that the point of the measures is "to get an unwilling partner to negotiate."

On Sunday, Steinmeier hosted his Russian, Ukrainian and French counterparts at a five-hour meeting in Berlin that produced little outward sign of progress. The foreign minister, however, insisted that he sees "a change in the position of both partners" and

both appear to be searching for ways toward a cease-fire.

The German approach has been one of quiet persistence, drawing in fellow European power France as a sign of European unity, at a time when EU institutions in Brussels are distracted by the transition to new leadership. Merkel and French President Francois Hollande got Putin and Poroshenko together in France in June.

"Part of a professional approach to foreign policy is that you don't let setbacks divert you from a path that you consider right," Steinmeier said, dismissing as "nonsense" an interviewer's suggestion that Germany has been soft on Russia.

Merkel has an added advantage in dealing with Putin. The chancellor, who grew up in communist East Germany, speaks Russian, while Putin — who once served with the KGB in East Germany — speaks German.



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WORLD

German doctor faces sex charges

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Authorities in Germany have arrested a hospital doctor on suspicion he drugged and sexually abused female patients participating in a fake clinical study he set up.

German news agency dpa reported Thursday that the unidentified 48-year-old worked at a clinic in the Bavarian town of Bamberg.

Prosecutors accuse him of pretending to conduct the clinical study in order to prey on his

victims.

The case came to light after a young woman sought police help last month, and blood tests confirmed she had been sedated against her will.

Officers searched the man's home and office Monday and found electronic evidence that indicated he had "conducted sexual acts on his helpless victim, and photographed them."

Based on the evidence, investigators believe he also assaulted other — as yet unidentified — women.



DAVID EBENER, DPA/AP

German authorities suspect a doctor at the Bamberg clinic drugged and sexually abused female patients in a fake clinical study.

5 accused cult members face murder trial in China

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Five people stood trial Thursday in the beating death of a woman at a McDonald's restaurant in eastern China who reportedly refused to join their anti-Communist Christian sect — a high-profile crime that led to a wave of arrests of cult suspects.

The five members of the "All-powerful Spirit" group, including a man and his two daughters, were accused of hitting the woman with chairs and a metal pole after she refused to give them her phone number, in violence captured on cellphone video that was later broadcast on state TV.

The "All-powerful Spirit," also known as "Eastern Lightning," believes that Jesus was resurrected as a Chinese woman and sees itself in a struggle against

the "Red Dragon," or the Chinese Communist Party. It is one of 14 cults that China has listed as illegal, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The crime took place on May 28 in Zhaoyuan city in Shandong province, a traditional hotbed for religious sects. The region gave birth to the violent anti-Christian Boxer movement that laid siege to Western interests in Beijing and elsewhere during the waning years of the Qing dynasty in 1900.

The five defendants were accused of murder and three also faced cult-related charges in the one-day trial at Yantai Intermediate People's Court. The court posted photos of what it said were the proceedings on its microblog, and said the judge would give a verdict at an unspecified later date.

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FAITH

Burgers and Bible verses



BARBARA DAVIDSON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Students eat burgers and mingle at the Jesus Burgers house in May in Santa Barbara, Calif. A group of college-aged Christians put on a monthly worship night at the house in the Isla Vista neighborhood, and afterward they give out free burgers.

Group offers place to gather, share the word in California town known for partying

By ADOLFO FLORES
Los Angeles Times

ISLA VISTA, Calif. — Angela Boyd bounced on the balls of her feet as the smell of sizzling meat pierced the ocean breeze. The 19-year-old and her friends were about to celebrate her birthday in Isla Vista, but they were making a pit stop at the Jesus Burgers house.

Music, laughter and clinking shot glasses coming from nearby apartments on Del Playa Drive announced another Friday night in Isla Vista, the hard-partying neighborhood next to UC Santa Barbara.

But at this apartment, students were throwing burgers on the grill for a higher purpose: It was time for some missionary work.

Christina Perez, 24, a graduate of UCSB and member of Isla Vista Church, which does out the free burgers, walked up to Boyd and began a casual conversation about anything but church — birthday plans, how she was getting home.

Boyd humored her. She knew what Perez was after.

"I see it in your eyes," Boyd said. "And I want to go to church."

"We have one at 4 on Sunday," Perez said.

Behind them a group of students spilled out of an apartment across the street, "Turn Down for What" blasting through the windows.

The two exchanged numbers and promised to text each other. Then Boyd joined the flow of college students out for a night on the town.

Across the street, Jason Lomelino watched as a man sketched "Jesus wept" in large letters on the middle of the street using orange and blue chalk. The verse, known for being the shortest in the Bible, had sprung up on streets and sidewalks in May after a rampage by Elliot Rodger left seven people dead, including the killer.

Even though residents of Isla Vista make up only about 7 percent of the county's population, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said nearly a quarter of all serious and violent crime in the region occurs there.

"People are hurting, and what we see is a manifestation of that in excessive partying, drugs and sex," said Lomelino, the pastor of Isla Vista Church. "There's a darkness to this place. Sometimes it can escalate into things of this nature."

For years, his church has preached the word of God to revelers. He knows it's a tall order in an area famous for its drinking, drug use and promiscuity.

With his deep tan and dark blue hoodie over his buzzed hair, the 34-year-old looks more like a surfer than a pastor. He sees a lot of his former self in the young partiers of Isla Vista.

'Nobody is saying, 'Burn or turn.''

Ava Ames
church member

He moved to Santa Barbara in 2001 from San Diego to get away from his partying ways, though he continued to hang out in Isla Vista.

One night, a group of friends took him to a Friday night church service at Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara. As he prayed, Lomelino heard a voice he believed was God's.

"Jason, what are you living for?" the voice said. "It was the first time I knew God was real," Lomelino said.

Soon Lomelino, with the help of a group of other college-age Christians, put on a monthly worship night at a park in downtown Isla Vista. They started giving out free burgers. A group of them would walk down Del Playa Drive on Friday nights to talk to students about Jesus, Lomelino said. Even though some students were receptive, they were often heckled.

"Why are you here?" and expletives were commonly thrown at them, Lomelino said.

In 2002 they leased the building they occupy now, dubbed the Jesus Burgers house by students, where members of the church live. The nondenominational

church was founded that same year, the first service held in the front yard of the apartment.

Lomelino, who took over as senior pastor in 2007, also works as a personal assistant for a Santa Barbara man who owns a carpet company.

When classes are in session, Lomelino encourages his congregation of about 150 people to look at themselves as missionaries in Isla Vista.

The median age of Isla Vista's 24,500 residents is about 21, according to census figures. The unincorporated 1.9-square-mile area is home mostly to UC Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara City College students, many living in cramped apartments.

This month, the campus placed third in an annual ranking of top party schools.

The legions of bronzed students riding beach cruisers and longboards in tank tops and sandals look as though they're living a laid-back life. But Ava Ames, 23, a UCSB graduate with a big voice, said many of them are under a great deal of pressure.

Students struggle to maintain a high grade-point average while partying into the late hours in an

effort to fit in and chase the next high, she said.

"If you're not partying, you don't fit into the scene and you fade into the background," Ames said. "A lot of these kids can't balance it, and they spiral into drug use, depression and, for many girls, eating disorders."

Ames can relate. As a freshman, she dated a fraternity member and drank heavily. At the same time, she said, she struggled with depression and anxiety.

One drunken night, Ames and her then-boyfriend were escorted to the Jesus Burgers house by a persistent member of the church. Once inside, two students "prayed on" the pair, Ames said. She was shocked when they started to say things about her life she'd never shared publicly.

But she didn't make a beeline for the next Isla Vista Church service. A year later, her younger brother asked if she would babysit Lomelino's kids during a service. She agreed.

The singing drew her in, Ames said, and before she knew it she was crying in a pew. She's been a member of the church ever since.

Even though most students at UCSB or Santa Barbara City College aren't fighting for a pew seat, Ames said, many of them respect the Jesus Burgers house and women know it's a safe place to crash if they're too inebriated.

"Nobody is saying, 'Burn or turn,'" Ames said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Wanted man involved in accident with police car

WA SPOKANE—Authorities said a wanted man was arrested after he rear-ended a Spokane detective's car. Police said the man's car crashed into the detective's car Tuesday, and police discovered he was wanted on outstanding arrest warrants related to driving and domestic violence. KREM reported the detective was treated for minor injuries.

Topless rally heading to new location

NC ASHEVILLE, — A topless rally is moving to a new location in Asheville this year that some say will be more visible to tourists and visitors. The rally is set for Sunday at Pritchard Park in the downtown retail and dining area, the Asheville Citizen-Times reported. The previous location at another park was already reserved for another event. Asheville rally spokeswoman LaDonna Allison said the event is designed to promote women's equality. Her group says laws and social stigmas against women being topless in public are unfair. "What reason do they have for saying it's OK for a man but not for a woman?" Allison said. "I just want to be treated equally." The rallies have seen a decline in the number of participants and spectators. The first event in 2011 drew an estimated 2,000 people and several dozen topless women. The 2012 and 2013 events drew several hundred people, with about a dozen women baring their breasts.

Woman digs up father's grave looking for will

NH LANCASTER — A woman accused of ransacking the New Hampshire grave of her father in search of his "real will" is asking a judge to dismiss the charge, arguing the body was never destroyed or removed. Eddie Nash, a businessman, died of a heart attack in 2004 at 68. His cement vault at the Colebrook Village Cemetery was found cracked in May, the casket opened and his remains scattered through. The body was left intact. Prosecutors allege Melanie Nash conspired with others to remove her father's remains. The Caledonian Record reported that in a motion filed earlier this month, her lawyer said the state doesn't allege the group destroyed Nash's corpse.

Naked biker arrested following accident

VA ARLINGTON — Arlington County police said a drunk, naked man crashed into two cars while riding a motorcycle before fleeing into some woods. The crashes occurred Friday night in Arlington. Police said Richard Hitchens, 42, wasn't wearing any clothes when police

THE CENSUS

150

The percentage that New Jersey officials said a hotel increased its rates because of Superstorm Sandy. Amy Hotels agreed to pay nearly \$65,000 to settle allegations of price gouging. State officials claimed the company raised its room rates by as much as \$199.99 per night after Gov. Chris Christie declared a state of emergency in advance of Sandy making landfall in 2012.



AMELIA BRUST, THE (HARRISONBURG, VA.) DAILY NEWS-RECORD/AP

A bushel of repairs

Workers begin repairing the outside of the apple basket-themed tower along Interstate 81 North in Mount Jackson, Va., on Tuesday. Repairs for the local landmark were put to bid in July after rust spots and faded paint were found inside and outside the tower.

found him close to the scene. He was taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. No one else was hurt. Police announced Tuesday that Hitchens has been charged with felony hit-and-run, indecent exposure, driving under the influence and other offenses.

School faces lawsuit over iPad discrimination

MA MENDON — The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a complaint with Massachusetts education officials over what it calls the discriminatory policy regarding iPad use at a state school district. The ACLU says the Mendon-Upton School District allows only low-income middle school students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches to take school-provided iPads home with them, while the rest of the students can use the school iPads only in school, or must buy their own. The Telegram & Gazette reported that the ACLU of Massachusetts says the policy violates

state law by not providing all students with equal access to educational resources.

Students hit by Ebola travel ban finally return

AL TUSKEGEE — Six Tuskegee University students are home after being stranded in Liberia for weeks because of the Ebola outbreak. The school issued a statement Tuesday night saying the students arrived at the Atlanta airport. They are all healthy with no quarantine restrictions. Most of the students went home with relatives since they missed the start of the fall semester. They're excused from classes for now. The school says the students will be monitored for three weeks when they return to campus to make sure they're not showing signs of illness. The six students went to Africa as part of a summer program to study abroad. Their return to the United States was delayed because of travel restrictions linked to the outbreak of the deadly disease in West Africa.

Injuries help boxer get lighter sentence

CA OAKLAND, — A federal judge sentenced a former world champion boxer convicted of several bank robberies to seven years in prison, handing down a lighter sentence in part because of the defendant's boxing-related injuries, his difficult childhood and a mistake by a Georgia court in 2001 that resulted in his spending additional years in prison. James Page was facing up to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to the San Francisco Bay Area bank robberies in February. Prosecutors said Page, 43, who had been dubbed the "Button Down Bandit" because of the shirts he wore, took more than \$20,000 during the heists last year, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. Page told U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White in Oakland he knows what he did was wrong. "With the pressures of life out there and my ego, I decided to take things in my own hands and make poor choices. I made a

mistake, a mistake I take responsibility for," he said in court, according to the Oakland Tribune.

Shotgun-wielding man planned 'Biden defense'

WA VANCOUVER — A prosecutor says he'll dismiss a firearms charge because he doubts a jury would convict a Vancouver man who said he was following the advice of Vice President Joe Biden when he fired a shotgun in the air. Jeffrey C. Barton had been scheduled for trial next week on the charge. The Columbian reported that Clark County Prosecutor Tony Golik said Tuesday that Barton will face a charge of obstructing a police officer. Barton admits firing the gun in July 2013 to chase away three men who appeared to be breaking into his vehicles. He planned the so-called "Biden defense," based on a statement the vice president made in February 2013 that people don't need automatic weapons because shooting a shotgun in the air would scare off intruders. From wire reports

WEEKEND



HOT (or not)

The summer movies
we loved, and the bombs
we've already forgotten

ILLUSTRATION BY THE SACRAMENTO BEE/MCT

Page 24

Baroque beauty

Small town
of Blieskastel,
Germany, has
charm to spare

Quick Trips, Page 28



Throwback thrills

Retro-style
camping can be
doggone fun for
the whole family

Travel, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



JOSH RITCHIE, SUN SENTINEL/MCT

Russ Brunner brews his stout at home, in a spare bedroom. But after winning a contest sponsored by the Sam Adams brewery, his stout is part of a limited-release six-pack now in stores.

Home brewer's stout now part of six-pack

By JOHN TANASYCHUK
Sun Sentinel

Last fall, Russ Brunner of Pompano Beach, Fla., entered his home-brewed stout into the Samuel Adams LongShot American Homebrew Contest. Shortly after sending his beer, he saw "Boston" on his caller ID. "There's absolutely no way," he remembers saying to himself. "It's a bill collector. But I answered it anyway, and it turned out to be Sam Adams." Brunner made the semifinals and eventually took one of two prizes for what is now called Russ Brunner's American Stout. His mug is on every bottle, part of a limited-release six-pack in stores now featuring two

bottles of Brunner's stout and two bottles each from two other winners. Brunner also won \$5,000 and trips to the Great American Beer Festival in Denver and the Sam Adams Boston brewery. Hard to believe that Brunner started home brewing only four years ago after he tried St. Bernardus Abt 12, which has been brewed in Belgium since 1946. Until this big Belgian, Brunner was strictly a light lager consumer of Miller Lite and Yuengling. These days, one bedroom of his and wife Liz's apartment has been turned over to brewing. "Now she's got the bug. She's making ciders and mead." For information on the Samuel Adams home brew contest, visit SamuelAdams.com/longshot.

GADGET WATCH

Camera bag makes airport maneuvering a breeze

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I guess it dates me a little when I say that the Roller Derby is coming back. The Think Tank Photo's new Airport Roller Derby rolling camera bag (\$389.75) helps you maneuver through crowded airports without elbowing your fellow passengers in the face.

The four-wheeled roller can turn on a dime and is extremely easy to maneuver, reducing the amount of effort needed to pull it when it's filled to capacity. The newly designed wheel system even improves the contents' weight distribution when it's on the move.

When I first opened the roller, I was pushing it around my house with one finger and hardly heard the wheels on my hardwood floors. Each wheel is actually a dual wheel, totaling up to eight wheels on the bottom.

The handle allows the bag to tilt and roll on two wheels. In addition to the well-designed wheel system, other top-notch features include high-quality hardware, water-resistant zippers and exterior fabric along with replaceable wheels with sealed steel bearings.

Storage compartments include dedicated pockets to hold a tablet and laptop (up to 15 inches) and dividers to fit just about any combination of gear, including a pair of DSLR bodies and about seven lenses, flash or other accessories.

When empty, the bag weighs 11 pounds and measures 14-by-22-by-9 inches.

According to Think Tank, the new Roller Derby "meets US domestic and most international carry-on requirements."

Also new from Think Tank Photo is the My 2nd Brain Briefcase, available in 13- (\$129.75)



MCT

With the new Airport Roller Derby, you can maneuver nimbly through crowded spaces and minimize muscle fatigue.



DIGITAL TREASURES/MCT

The Jive, an all-in-one Bluetooth speaker and speaker phone, is completely waterproof so you can enjoy your favorite tunes or hands-free calling in any environment.

cables, hard drives, headphones, tablets, pens, keys, smartphones and your laptop. A pair of exterior side zippered pockets can hold a water bottle and a compact umbrella.

The Airport Roller Derby and the new briefcases include a Think Tank rain cover.

Online: thinktankphoto.com

The superCUBE and superCUBE flip from Scosche are items that everyone should have tucked in their travel bag.

The superCUBE is a one-inch cube with nothing but AC prongs and a USB port. It's advertised to be up to 40 percent smaller than most similar USB 12W charging adapters.

Its big brother, the superCUBE flip, is a little bigger but has folding AC prongs so they can be tucked away when not in use.

Online: scosche.com, \$19.99 each

Digital Treasures Jive wireless speaker really lets you take your music and phone calls anywhere.

The Jive is a Bluetooth speaker with a mic for hands-free calls, but what makes it special is the built-in suction cup enabling the waterproof speaker built with silicone-based materials to go anywhere and everywhere, including your shower.

Obviously your media source (tablet, smartphone, etc.) doesn't have to be in the water; just make your Bluetooth connection and keep it within 32 feet of the speaker.

It features a one-touch talk button, a 3-watt full-range speaker and an internal rechargeable battery good for up to four hours.

Online: digitaltreasures.com; \$19 at Amazon, available in blue, green, black, orange and purple

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for August 20:

1. "Shake It Off," 1989 Taylor Swift
2. "All About That Bass - Single," Meghan Trainor
3. "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
4. "Rather Be featuring Jess Glynne," Clean Bandit
5. "Break Free (feat. Zedd)," Ariana Grande
6. "Chandelier," Sia
7. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
8. "Rude," MAGIC!
9. "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
10. "Cool Kids," Echosmith

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for Aug. 11-17:

1. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
2. "Rude," MAGIC!
3. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
4. "Chandelier," Sia
5. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
6. "Bang Bang," Jessie J
7. "Break Free," Ariana Grande
8. "Shower," Becky G
9. "Problem," Ariana Grande
10. "Maps," Maroon 5

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for August 20:

1. "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
2. "Divergent"
3. "Neighbors"
4. "The Other Woman"
5. "Draft Day"
6. "Philomena"
7. "Mrs. Doubtfire"
8. "Muppets Most Wanted"
9. "Dead Poets Society"
10. "Blended"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 downloadable games for August:

1. "Divinity: Original Sin"
2. "Shovel Knight"
3. "Dark Souls II: Crown of the Sunkin King"
4. "The Swapper"
5. "Guacamelee! Super Turbo Championship Edition"
6. "Titanfall: Frontier's Edge"
7. "Call of Duty: Ghosts - Nemesis"
8. "Oddworld: New 'n' Tasty"
9. "Valiant Hearts: The Great War"
10. "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 4 - Amid The Ruins"

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for August 20:

1. ANDROID
2. Ignore No More
3. Afterlight
4. Time Tangle - Adventure Time
5. Modern Combat 5: Blackout
6. Facelune

Top 5 paid apps for August 20:

1. Heads Up!
2. Minescraft - Pocket Edition
3. Card Wars - Adventure Time
4. Afterlight
5. Videoshop - Video Editor

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Awards shows aplenty

It's time once again to toast TV at the **Emmy Awards**. Once the backward entertainment relative of movies, now television is rightfully in the limelight for its abundance of innovative, star-studded programming (granted, mostly on cable). Consider this: standout prime-time shows including "The Good Wife" and "Scandal" and stars Michael Sheen ("Masters of Sex") and James Spader ("The Blacklist") didn't even make the cut as Emmy nominees.

Funny guy Seth Meyers (at right) presides over this year's Emmys, which take place Monday and are broadcast Tuesday on AFN.

In other hot upcoming awards-show action, the **MTV Video Music Awards** are a go for Sunday night (Monday on AFN). Top nominee Beyonce will compete for eight awards, including video of the year for "Drunk in Love." Oodles of singers will take the stage, including Ariana Grande, Usher, 5 Seconds of Summer, Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, Sam Smith and Iggy Azalea, who has seven nominations.



NBC



2

Swing into action with Spider-Man on DVD

Fans of the Tobey Maguire-as-Spidey trilogy might still be asking why a reboot was necessary, but Andrew Garfield does fill the bodysuit nicely in "The Amazing Spider-Man." And Emma Stone is ever darling as Peter Parker's first love, Gwen Stacy. In "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," now on DVD, the web-slinger faces villains played by Jamie Foxx and Paul Giamatti, as well as a new threat from a former friend.

• Other new DVD releases on Page 39.

3

Michael Cera, musician

The actor better known for his roles in "Superbad" and "Juno" quietly released an album, called "true that," online last week. You can listen to 18 tracks for free. And if you buy the album, you get three bonus tracks.

• Hear it at: michaelceramusic.bandcamp.com/releases

4

'Star Wars' rumors

Hey, we heard that you can generate your own "Star Wars" rumors at this cool website! Why not — they're as plausible as what those "in the know" are saying. And may the Force — of hearsay — be with you.

• Try it at tinyurl.com/swrumors

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Summer flicks: The good, the bad and the ugly

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Summer's spent, cinematically. So it's time to tally up the take, pat a few folks on the back and pass the buck of blame around Hollywood for the cinema season that was.

The sequels showed up in droves, and some — from "Spider-Man: Less Amazing Than Ever" to "X-Men: How MANY of These Xes Can We Stuff Into One Movie?" — were hits; others, not so much. Every week had a potential blockbuster; many weeks, those films fell short.

But an August box office rally lessened the pain of a season that lagged 20 percent behind last summer's epic numbers.

Some films are remembered, many will be forgotten. And since the Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences is loathe to recognize or even remember summer films come Oscar time, let's hand out another summer's load of Summer Oscars, "Summoscars," naming names and spreading the love as we do.



Warner Bros. Pictures

Worst acting

The cast of "Into the Storm," for which director Steven Quale should take the credit.



WARNER BROS./AP

Most in need of a fresh gag

Melissa McCarthy, "Tammy." Watch "The Fluffy Movie," dear, if you want to know how short the shelf life on fat jokes is.



SONY PICTURES/AP



MARVEL STUDIOS/MCT

Best popcorn picture

The jokey-retro-cool "Guardians of the Galaxy," because "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" was all about the animated apes as humans sat around waiting for better characters and dialogue.



OPEN ROAD FILMS/AP

Best food film

"Chef." Jon Favreau's scruffy food truck road-trip comedy trumped the bloated Oprah/Spielberg-backed "The Hundred-Foot Journey." French cuisine and Helen Mirren bested by Cubanos and a Le-guizamo.



THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY/AP

Best movies you missed

"Fith," with James McAvoy as a twisted, tormented Scottish cop; "Belle" with rising star Gugu Mbatha-Raw as the daughter of a slave, raised among aristocrats; and "Begin Again" (pictured), a tuneful, wistful New York romance where the love is all about the music.



SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/AP

Biggest laughs

"22 Jump Street" mocked its very existence and got away with it — hilariously.



WARNER BROS./AP

Worst curtain calls

Woody Allen's tin-eared "Magic in the Moonlight," Clint Eastwood's tone-deaf "Jersey Boys." Does either still have the patience for rewriting jokes or retakes of flatly played scenes?



IFC Films

Best sequel

"The Trip to Italy," in which all these years of comical bickering, and now two road-trip movies further into their collaboration, Rob Brydon finally gets Steve Coogan to crack up with laughter.



Paramount Pictures

Worst sequel

"Transformers: Age of Extinction," because "Planes 2" at least tried harder.



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/AP

Worst-served genre

Animation. A tired and joke-starved "How to Train Your Dragon 2," and an improved-but-still DOA "Planes: Fire & Rescue." Kids deserve better.



WARNER BROS./AP

Best career move

Dying on screen. Tom Cruise did it scores of times, to the delight of fans and especially haters, in "Edge of Tomorrow."



Paramount Pictures, Nickelodeon Movies

Loudest

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," a Michael Bay production, got a Michael Bay soundtrack.



DISNEY/AP

Most likely to succeed as a new Disney princess

"Maleficent." Bad girls need a tiara, too.



Twentieth Century Fox Film

Most prescient

"Let's Be Cops," about two goofs who dress up as police to get girls and find purpose and machismo.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Biggest marketing fail

"Get on Up." A stunning star turn by Chadwick Boseman could have been an Oscar contender, but Universal rolled the film out to the sounds of silence in early August.



Lionsgate

Biggest suckers

Ticket-buyers to "America," a documentary-length whine by convicted liar Dinesh D'Souza proclaiming himself a martyr for being caught lying and facing jail time for it.



IFC FILMS/AP

Real Oscar nominee

"Boys n the Hood," a possible best director, best screenplay and/or best picture contender.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Moretz faces life's big questions in 'If I Stay'

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Chloe Grace Moretz is spending a lot of time pondering life's transitions. At 17, it's not too soon for her to wonder about that generally awkward leap to more adult roles. For every Emma Watson, gracefully continuing her career into her 20s, there are five Amanda Bynes, and Moretz has to know that.

"I've done this (acting) for the past 12-13 years of my life," the star of "Carrie" and "Hugo" says. "It's my love and my passion. It's my one true calling. I wouldn't give it up for anything in the world. But at some point in my life, maybe in the next two years, I would like to go to a film school and learn cinematography and editing. I am fascinated by the technical side of the business."

And her new film has had her mulling over the BIG transition — life to death and what might come after. "If I Stay," based on Gayle Forman's young adult novel about a comatose teen who faces the stark choices of life or death, forces issues of mortality on an age group that is famed for thinking itself immortal.

"You don't think about how unexpected death is at that age, my age," she says. "In this movie, we come in the car and bad things happen. ... My character's listening to music, the voice-over is a little ominous. And then BAM! It's as quick as when it happens in real life. ... Life doesn't usually have this big build-up until death. It's sudden."

Moretz's character, Mia, is an aspiring cellist with a shot at Juilliard, a teen girl in love for the first time (Jamie Blackley) with an adoring, indulgent family. But Juilliard damages the romance. A car accident leaves her in a coma, and as her spirit wanders through flashbacks

and the halls of that hospital, she pulls together reasons for giving up as well as things that might make her fight to live.

"Bringing it down to a baseline that we can all see — that common denominator of loss," Moretz says. "We can all, no matter how young we are, connect with losing

'Tragic love stories pull us in because of that high and the low that follows. It gives them that much more impact.'

someone or something and grieving over it. Even a little kid gets that. ... In love, it's so fleeting when you're my age. You get that high, you're in that romantic high, on the top of a mountain. And then it's gone — just like that, in a flash, it's suddenly gone. You're careening down off that mountain on your way down to Earth."

"Tragic love stories pull us in because of that high and the low that follows. It gives them that much more impact."

The daughter of an Atlanta plastic surgeon and a nurse, younger sister to an actor and acting coach, Moretz has seemed destined for at least child stardom from the start. Making her mark in films such as "Kick-Ass" and "Let Me In," she officially became a talent worth following, meaning that even a misstep — last year's stumbling "Carrie" remake — earned notices that declared how "unnervingly talented" (Cath Clarke, Time Out) or "fiercely talented" (The Guardian newspaper) she is, whatever the film she's miscast in.

So it's no surprise that she's a very convincing cellist in "If I Stay," or that she had never picked up the instrument before taking the role.

"It's so intricate, so soulful," she says of the cello. "You have to devote, like, 15 years of your life to it to be any good at all. It's a very emotive, versatile instrument. It took me seven or eight months to get to the point where I could fake it. It was less difficult getting the technical side of it, the bowing and all, than getting the emotion right. You get this vibration, playing the cello, the physicality of it is kind of wild. Watch a cellist who is really into it playing it, and they seem to express these big emotions."

When she wasn't playing the cello, "If I Stay" had her running through the halls of a hospital set, a lost soul trying to decide whether life is still worth living. She figures her generation will buy into that concept without hesitation.

"We're pretty open-minded about spiritual stuff," she says. "We're smart enough that we don't want to be spoon-fed a belief system, some sort of candy-coated philosophy. That's why the movies that appeal to us are not just Christian or Buddhist or Jewish or whatever. We're kind of open to looking at a broad spectrum of religions, beliefs and forms of spirituality. That's why I think this movie will connect with people my age. We don't want to be told what to believe, or to expect in an afterlife. 'If I Stay' doesn't tell you. It lets you think about it."

Chloe Grace Moretz stars as a girl who has an out-of-body experience after an accident that left her in a coma in "If I Stay."

DOANE GREGORY, WARNER BROTHERS, NEW LINE CINEMA, MGM/MCT



Young love lives or dies with one decision in 'If I Stay'

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Manipulative, contrived, melodramatic — all labels we slap on that most perfectly titled movie genre, "the weeper." All fit "If I Stay" like original packaging. Teenage girls and the boys who want to date them to discover the pleasures of a well-executed teen weeper for themselves, and this film is the bill.

Chloe Grace Moretz takes on the real star-vehicle romance in this adaptation of Gayle Forman's novel. Moretz is Mia, a Portland, Ore., high school cello prodigy who, 12 minutes into the movie, is in a car crash. Her spirit awakens in the crimson snow to see her broken body hauled off in an ambulance.

As the able doctors operate on her, somebody says, "If she wants to live, she'd better start fighting." That's what the movie is about, Mia's spirit, dashing barefoot through the halls of the hospital, checking on the rest of her injured family and reliving, through flashbacks, the life she might be leaving behind.

We travel back to her meeting Adam (Jamie Blackley), the bulky underclassman alt rocker who is drawn to her good looks

New on base

"If I Stay" is playing at the following:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsack, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Atsugi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: ifistaymovie.com

and her utter immersion in her instrument. Worlds collide as the Beethoven-loving cellist struggles to fit in with Portland's two-guitar bar-band scene.

In other episodes, we fall in with her still-living parents. Dad (Joshua Leonard) used to be a punk drummer, and mom (Mireille Enos) was a groupie/riot grrrl. Then they had their second child (Jakob Davies) and gave that up for straight jobs.

Adam is Mia's first kiss, gives her that first shot of whiskey and is her "first" in that other all-important way. But she could get into Juilliard, and that first love could be the one who got away.

Or she could never come out of this coma she's in, the one we see her in every time we return to the hospital.

Director R.J. Cutler, a veteran TV producer/director ("Nashville"), keeps the camera in tight on Moretz, and the romance of this sinks or swims on her performance. Her cello playing is impressive, her girl-in-love moments awkward, in a kind of studios way. Sometimes her body language doesn't match the tone of her voice or the pitch of the scene.

And whatever disconnects the movie throws at us, the overfamiliar clichés of screwball romance — pop music courtship montages — it eventually gets down to business, Mia's choice. Does she stay or does she let go?

In the end, what matters with any weeper is, "Does it earn tears?" Manipulated we may be, yanked through contrived melodrama that piles grief upon grief. But "If I Stay" will make you wish you'd brought a hanky.

"If I Stay" is rated PG-13 for thematic elements and some sexual material. Running time: 103 minutes.

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THUR AUG 21 - WED AUG 27
In Digital 3D: Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13): Thur 17:45, 20:15, Fri 17:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 17:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:45, 20:00, Mon 17:45, 20:15
In Digital 3D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13): Thur - Wed 15:45
In 2D: Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Fri - Sun 15:30, Tue 15:30
The Expendables 3 (PG-13): Thur 20:15, Fri Sat 20:00, Sun 20:00, Mon & Tue 20:15
Hercules (PG-13): Sat & Sun 16:30
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG): Thur 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30
Lucy (PG-13): Thur & Fri 18:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 18:30, Mon - Wed 18:45
Planes 2: Fire & Rescue (PG): Sat 13:30
In 3D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13): Thur 20:30, Fri 20:30, 22:30, Sat 20:15, 22:30, Sun 15:30, Mon - Wed 20:30
The Purge: Anarchy (R): Thur 18:00, Fri 17:45, Sat & Sun 15:30, Mon - Wed 18:00

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



New and improved

‘The Last of Us: Remastered’ transforms a beautiful classic into a stunning one

By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Before Naughty Dog released “The Last of Us” last year, there was a certain expectation for how a game from the studio responsible for the “Uncharted” series would turn out. It was assumed that it would be beautiful to look at — “Uncharted” is one of the most visually detailed games around. Fans expected great voice acting and interesting set pieces, based on the studio’s output to that point.

What they could not have anticipated, however, was the impact “The Last of Us” would go on to create. Not only did the deeply emotional exploration of humanity disguised as a third-person shooter run away with nearly every game of the year award imagin-

able, it has remained solidly in the discussion for one of the best games ever created.

The only real downside to the game is that it was released toward the end of the PlayStation 3’s life cycle and as such, people waiting for the inevitable hardware refresh missed out.

That’s a problem the recent release of “The Last of Us: Remastered” is aiming to fix.

Right off the bat, if you’re one of the players who missed out on this game the first time around, it’s absolutely worth picking up. The components that made the game so memorable — the story, its themes and gameplay — remain unchanged.

Joel and Ellie’s journey across a post-apocalyptic America still resonates a year later, perhaps even more so with a bit of space between the release here and today. It doesn’t hurt that “Remastered” includes a visual fidelity overhaul that now has the game running at a silky-smooth 60 frames per second (with an option to cap it at the original 30fps), native 1080p

resolution and upgraded textures that have brought the game from beautiful to stunning.

The game was never ugly, but now it’s exceptionally detailed and has to be seen in motion for it to really be appreciated. In fact, Naughty Dog is so proud of what their artists and programmers were able to do with “Remastered” that they’ve also included a photo mode that can turned on and off at any point in the game. I spent more time than I care to admit in this mode just taking screenshots of the gorgeous backdrops.

The inclusion of the post-release DLC to the package is the other big addition to the overall experience. Personally, I would strongly recommend completing the extra missions after completing the main story, as some parts of them expand upon things that happen in the main story.

Naughty Dog also included a new difficulty level titled “Grounded,” which strips away the listen mode and greatly increases the intelligence of the enemies, while reducing the amount of supplies in the world. This mode is strictly for those who enjoy suffering, but it’s a nice addition for returning fans who already know what challenges lay around the corner.

Even with these additions to the original game, it still remains largely the same game that millions of people played last year. If you’re a newcomer to the series, “Remastered” is an easy recommendation. “The

Last of Us” is a game that should be played by anybody considering themselves a fan of video games.

But if you’ve already played it on the PlayStation 3, is it still worth your hard-earned dollars? I would say yes, but with a caveat. As much fun as I had revisiting one of my favorite games and playing around with the photo mode, it’s very much the same game I played just 13 months ago. I’m still shooting corydcep-infested abominations, dragging around platforms and hunting down ladders.

The upgraded visuals helped to lessen some of the monotony, but no amount of high-resolution leaves can detract from the fact that I’ve already been there and done that. That’s not to say I didn’t enjoy my time revisiting one of the better games ever created, but your personal enjoyment of “Remastered” will be strongly tied to how often you enjoy replaying games.

If you’re looking for anything massively new, you might be disappointed. But if you’re looking to see what happens when a studio takes one of the best games ever made, and then improves upon it in every conceivable way, “The Last of Us: Remastered” is a definite must-purchase.

Bottom Line: Newcomers to “The Last of Us” should buy this immediately; fans revisiting it probably should as well.

Platform: PlayStation 4

darnell.michael@stripes.com



“The Last of Us: Remastered” for the PlayStation 4 features higher-resolution character models, and enhanced shadows and lighting, in addition to several other gameplay improvements.

Photos courtesy of Naughty Dog



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Giants in Belgium

For an outing steeped in folkloric tradition, Ath, Belgium, would make a fine destination as its annual fair known as the Ducasse d'Ath plays out. The event rates a place on UNESCO's list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

The fair, which dates to the 15th century, features seven "giants," oversize allegorical figures who move through the streets. On Saturday, the one known as Gouyasse, or Goliath, will wed his beloved in the town's St. Julien's church at 3 p.m., then battle it out with another giant, David, at 4:45 p.m. On Sunday, a procession featuring the giants, floats and folklore groups marches through the town beginning at 9:45 a.m. and winds up about 3 p.m. On Monday, the figures once again parade through the streets to solicit donations. It's also possible to take carriage rides through Ath's old town or watch hot air balloons ascend. Learn more about the event at tinyurl.com/momnifq8.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

guest; this year, Mongolia's artists are honored. Other acts hail from Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Japan, Senegal and other far-flung corners of the world.

The festival opens Friday in Comacchio and moves to Ferrara for the weekend; on Monday the artists perform in Lugo. They then return to Ferrara and remain there through Aug. 31.

Festival opening hours are 6 p.m. to midnight except on Sundays, when the action runs from 5-8 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at ferrarabuskers.com.

Czech hip-hop

The Czech town of Hradec Králové, located about 70 miles east of Prague, is sure to attract hip-hop fans in droves through Saturday with its annual lineup of artists from Europe, Britain, the United States and other parts of the world. One of the largest festivals for this genre of music in all Europe, this music-and-dance event traditionally attracts a young crowd some 20,000 strong.

Hip Hop Kemp sprawls across six venues, including a live stage and several platforms for those who want to dance; alternatively, watch battles of dancing crews, catch the open-mic shows or take in a workshop. Performers hailing from the U.S. include Black Milk, Dilated Peoples, KRS One, Bizarre Ride 2, the Pharcyde and Dillon Cooper.

Revelers can grab some sleep in a camping area that has showers and safe-deposit facilities available at additional cost. The camping fee is 250 crowns (about \$12) per person, and the area remains open until noon on Sunday. On-site parking costs an additional 200 crowns.

At press time, adult tickets were selling for 64 euros (about \$85.50) via a website linked to the event's home page, 4tix.de.

The event is open to all ages. Those under age 10 and 130 centimeters get in for free in the company of a parent.

Visit the festival's website at hiphokemp.cz.

Through Sept. 28:

Get a glimpse of royal childhood at Buckingham Palace

To celebrate the arrival of Prince George, son of England's Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Buckingham Palace is inviting guests to an exhibition celebrating royal children.

The Royal Childhood exhibition, which runs to Sept. 28, gives visitors insight into what it's like to grow up as a royal, showcasing some of the outfits, gifts and toys belonging to royal children in the past 250 years. Many of Queen Elizabeth II's own toys are on display, from beloved dolls and games to a replica of the extravagant doll house given to her by the people of Wales. The original is played with by young royals today. According to the Royal Collection website, it has a real thatched roof and electric lights, and the kitchen is equipped with running water.

Other highlights of the exhibition include the queen's rocking horse, Prince William's sailor suit and dolls made by the Princess Victoria based on characters from her favorite ballets. Those hoping for a glimpse into the life of Prince George can see the silk-and-lace gown he wore at his christening last year, plus the



Anna Reynolds, curator of The Royal Childhood exhibition, displays toys owned by the young Queen Elizabeth II and her sister, Princess Anne. They include two Parisian dolls, left; a 1928 wicker toy baby buggy; a boy doll in a navy uniform; and "Pamela" in a beret.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

extravagant font he was lifted into. It was designed in 1841 for the daughter of Queen Victoria, and has been used at royal baptisms ever since. Find more information at royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions/royal-childhood.



Stars and Stripes

Goliath is one of the main characters in the giants parade in Ath, Belgium.

Street artists in Italy

Both this weekend and the next, the streets of Ferrara, Italy, will bustle as the UNESCO-listed city known for its Renaissance palaces welcomes performing artists from around the world.

The Ferrara Buskers Festival was launched in 1988 to raise the profile of street musicians and attract tourists to this medieval walled city by the Po River. This year's edition will welcome some 1,000 artists from more than 30 countries: aerialists, clowns, dancers, jugglers, tightrope walkers and a host of other original acts will take to the streets in what's billed as the biggest event dedicated to street artists in the world.

Every year sees one designated country welcomed as special



AP

The Titanic House Visitor Centre is reflected on Belfast Lough, Northern Ireland.

Through August: Save on Titanic Belfast

Through August, early risers get a break on admission to Titanic Belfast, which calls itself "the world's largest Titanic visitor experience." Discounted rates are 10 pounds (about \$12) for adults (a savings of 5.50 pounds from the regular price) and 6 pounds for children (a savings of 1.25 pounds) for entry at 9 a.m., 9:20 a.m. and 9:40

a.m. (Tickets can be booked online for an additional 1-pound fee.)

Titanic Belfast extends over nine galleries, drawing together special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions and interactive features to explore the Titanic story. Find more information at titanicbelfast.com.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Standing in the middle of a traffic circle, this open gate welcomes visitors to Blieskastel, a town in Germany's Saarland state.



The Hercules Fountain in Blieskastel was erected in 1691. This statue of the Greco-Roman hero that tops the fountain is supposedly the sixth, sculpted in 1954.

Go for baroque

Blieskastel, Germany, offers architecture and charm

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

If you are looking for a nice place to go for a day, without having to drive too far, we have just the place for you.

Not far from Kaiserslautern, Ramstein or Baumholder is the town of Blieskastel.

It first came to our attention while driving to France on Autobahn A6. There was one of those brown signs that point out places of interest, and it read "Barockstadt Blieskastel." So one sunny summer morning we headed out to see how much baroque Blieskastel had to offer.

Turns out, quite a bit: a church, a small palace, a town hall and a long row of houses all built in baroque style, although perhaps not quite as ornate as you see in some places, such as France, perhaps.

But Blieskastel, as we found out, has even more going for it: a restaurant/cafe-ringed market square, a pilgrimage chapel with a remarkable statue, other nooks and crannies with a variety of architecture and a 4,000-year-old monolith standing in a field above the town.

Driving into Blieskastel, the first thing you notice is an open gate sitting in the middle of a very busy traffic circle. It is sort of an open-hearted welcome to

the town, but the only way to actually get up close to it by foot is by dodging cars going around the circle. It's best just to park the car in one of the nearby lots and walk into town.

Its center is the Marktplatz with its Napoleon Fountain. Because a snake wraps around and protrudes from the fountain, spouting water from its mouth, it is also known as the Schlangenbrunnen, or Snake Fountain.

From here, follow the pedestrian signs to the Heilig-Kreuz-Kapelle. After a steep climb, you come to the 17th-century

chapel that has been a place of pilgrimage over the centuries, interrupted only by the French Revolution, when French soldiers used it as an ammunition dump.

Inside, behind the altar, is the "Unsere Liebe Frau mit den Pfeilen," or "Our Dear Lady with the Arrows." icon. According to legend, marauding soldiers shot arrows into the wood carving and blood ran from its wounds. A countless of Blieskastel's eye disease was cured when she rubbed the blood in her eyes.

There are many religious statues outside the chapel and in the

nearby gardens.

Walk back into town and follow signs to the Schlässchen, or Little Palace. On your way, you pass a row of baroque buildings lining the street. The Schlässchen, the last in the row, was built in the late 18th century and is one of the best examples of the town's baroque architecture. Today it is used as a school.

Across the street is the baroque Schlosskirche. Construction began in 1776 and final touches were made in 1781. The interior has been recently renovated.

Behind it is the Renaissance Lange Bau, the last remnant of the city's palace. Known as the Orangerie and built in the late 17th century, it is used today for concerts and exhibitions. Its garden is a relaxing place to rest weary feet.

Then follow the signs to the Gollenstein, about a mile hike. The 4,000-year-old monolith is one of Germany's oldest cultural monuments.

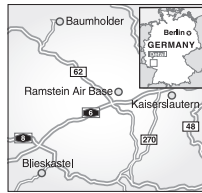
It was dismantled in 1939 because it was considered a possible marker for French artillery across the nearby border. Unfortunately, it broke in four pieces. It was re-erected in 1951, using concrete to hold it together.

If you didn't have lunch in town, consider a picnic on this ancient site.

abrams.mike@starsandstripes.com



The Renaissance Lange is the last remnant of Blieskastel palace. Known as the Orangerie, it is used today for concerts and exhibitions. It's also a nice place to rest weary feet.



NOVA AM-NAV/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Take Autobahn A6 toward Saarbrücken, then A8 toward Zweibrücken, exiting at the Einödt/Blieskastel exit. Follow highway B423 to Blieskastel. From Kaiserslautern, it is about 37 miles, from Baumholder, about 45 miles.

TIMES

Visit anytime, but it is more fun when the weather is good and you can sit outside.

COSTS

Parking in the big lots on the edge of town is free.

FOOD

There are plenty of restaurants and cafes in all price classes.

INFORMATION

See blieskastel.de (German only).

— Michael Abrams

For more photos of Blieskastel, Germany, go to stripes.com/go/blieskastel



WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Potential diners look at the menu for Rhubarb, a restaurant in the shopping area of Newmarket, England.

After Hours: England

BY ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

The lamb croquettes were unexpected.

Served on a piece of black slate, the two balls of battered lamb nestled in piles of onion came not long after the complimentary rolls. My wife and I had not ordered them, but they were another part of Rhubarb's focus on service and presentation.

Rhubarb is a relatively new edition to dining options in Newmarket, England, and one that is easily missed. The restaurant has only about 10 tables, and its narrow storefront on the edge of The Guinness Shopping Centre does not draw attention. The wider, glass storefronts of a fish-and-chips place and the Pantry Fine Food Shop and Eatery command the eye.

Inside, however, presentation is paramount. The chicken entree (£13 British pounds, or about \$20) comes with the breast chopped into very manageable slices on top of watercress puree and drizzled with mustard sauce. The chicken, which the restaurant boasts as locally sourced, was juicy and firm, with the occasional bit of cooked crispness on the edge. The sauce was tasty, but far too sparingly applied.

The 8-ounce steak (£17 British pounds) is simple and comes with all of the staples expected on the English menu: onion rings, a portion of tomato, a large mushroom and plenty of fries. The peppercorn sauce that came with the steak was spicy with a sour finish when sampled alone and complemented the steak per-

RHUBARB

Location: On the edge of The Guinness Shopping Centre not far from Newmarket's High Street. The center has parking, free after 4 p.m.

Dress: Rhubarb does not publish a dress code, but it has a formal atmosphere. Dress as though you are going to work.

Cost: Expect to spend 13 British pounds (about \$20) or more for an entree. Most desserts cost 6 pounds.

More information: Visit therhubarb.co.uk

—Adam L. Mathis

fectly — and just about anything else you chose to dip in it.

The most interesting dessert on the menu is the "hot chocolate orange fondant with BBQ



Lamb croquettes were served as a bonus at Rhubarb, along with complimentary rolls.

orange puree and honeycomb ice cream" for 6 British pounds. This translates on the plate to a small cake that gushes with liquid chocolate, which has a hint of orange in it.

Split this with someone, as I did with my wife, and its life on the table will not even reach five minutes.

mathis.adam@stripes.com



Rhubarb's chicken dish features potato, slices of chicken breast and leg meat seared in bacon and wrapped around mushrooms.

Grilled chicken salad works for Labor Day

BY SARA MOULTON
The Associated Press

Labor Day, summer's last hurrah, is a feast day. And we tend to overdo it. Ribs, steaks, burgers and hot dogs? Check, check, check and check!

Vegetables and other light fare? Not so much.

Allow me to propose an alternative — a dish that's simultaneously light and refreshing and substantial: chicken paillard. Paillard is a French culinary term referring to a piece of meat pounded thin, then grilled or sautéed. In this case, we're going to marinate and grill chicken breasts, then top them off with a peach and arugula salad glorified with a full-fat blue cheese dressing.

Where do you find these skinny cuts of chicken? Chances are you can pick up thin chicken breast cutlets at the supermarket. Or you can buy chicken breasts of average girth, pop them in the freezer for 30 minutes, then cut them horizontally into two thin cutlets.

Whatever kind of breasts you start with, you'll need to pound the cutlets to the desired thinness. And you'll want to avoid shredding them in the process.

Here's a little trick to avoid any shredding. Sprinkle both sides of the cutlet with cold water before putting it between two sheets of plastic wrap (or in a zip-close plastic bag). Then pound away, as planned, with a meat pounder or a rolling pin. You'll notice that the water cushions the meat, preventing it from sticking to the plastic and shredding.

Next, it's time to bathe the cutlets for an hour in a simple marinade of olive oil, lemon and garlic. Their thinness helps them to soak up the flavor fast. Grilling the cutlets takes almost no time, about 1 minute per side. Let them rest for 5 minutes and they're good to go.

The salad is a cinch

— sliced fresh summer peaches and baby arugula (or your favorite greens) tossed with a blue cheese dressing. Happily, a little bit of full-fat blue cheese goes a long way. In this recipe, 1 ounce serves four people. Indeed, it's so rich that I've combined it with low-fat mayonnaise, Greek yogurt and a little bit of water to thin it out. Toasted walnuts provide the final touch.

GRILLED CHICKEN PAILLARD WITH PEACH AND ARUGULA SALAD

Ingredients

- 2 pounds chicken breasts, pounded $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch-thick
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup extra-virgin oil
- 4 teaspoons minced garlic
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 8 cups baby arugula
- 4 large peaches, thinly sliced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fat-free plain Greek yogurt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup light mayonnaise
- 2 ounces finely crumbled blue cheese
- 1 cup chopped toasted walnuts

Directions

In a large zip-close plastic bag, combine the chicken with the lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, 1 teaspoon of salt and several grindings of pepper. Mix, then chill for 1 hour.

Heat the grill to medium-high. Use an oil-soaked paper towel held with tongs to oil the grill grates.

Remove the chicken from the marinade, letting the excess liquid drip off. Grill chicken until it is just cooked, about 1 minute per side. Transfer to a plate, cover with foil and let rest for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl combine the arugula and the peaches. In a small bowl combine the yogurt, mayonnaise and blue cheese. Stir in enough water to achieve the desired consistency (about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup), then season with salt and pepper. Add the dressing to the salad and toss.

To serve, arrange one of the paillards on each serving plate and top with salad and nuts.

Start to finish: 1 hour 20 minutes (20 minutes active). Makes 8 servings, 370 calories each.



MATTHEW MEAD/AP

Grilled chicken paillard serves as an alternative end-of-summer dish that is light, refreshing and substantial.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

A fate sealed in stone?

Wear and tear could mean new extinction for Pompeii

By MICHELLE LOCKE
The Associated Press

Pompeii is the city of the long goodbye.

In A.D. 62, a major earthquake toppled buildings, causing severe damage, a harbinger of what was to come. Seventeen years later, in A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying Pompeii in a swift and terrible destruction.

Today, Pompeii is under threat of a new extinction brought on partly by exposure to the elements and the burden of foot traffic. 2.5 million pairs of feet per year, to be exact.

But although death is Pompeii's calling card, it's the glimpses of everyday life from long ago — including ancient frescoes from a brothel — that truly fascinate.

You can wander down streets and stride across the stepping stones that kept the ancient residents' feet dry during floods (no need to soak those Roman sandals). You can see first-century mosaic floors that put modern kitchen vinyl to shame, or peer at faded frescoes on a living room wall and imagine the house filled with the sound of a lively dinner party.

It's even possible to come face to face with the horror of long ago via the famous body casts of volcanic victims. After the disaster, bodies were encased in volcanic ash, which hardened. Meanwhile, the corpses decayed, leaving voids. In the mid-19th century, Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli, a key figure in the excavation and preservation of Pompeii, saw the voids and figured out how to pour plaster inside. The shell was cracked open and the dead revealed.

Many of Pompeii's artifacts, including several body casts, can be found in the Naples National Archaeological Historical Museum. Also in the museum is the infamous "Secret Cabinet," a collection of erotic art, mostly from Pompeii, which was censored for decades.

Some erotica can still be found at the ruins, including the wall paintings of the House of the Mysteries. A poignant exhibit is the Garden of the Fugitives, where body casts of victims who



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE LOCKE/AP

A plaster cast captures the horror of a victim of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which in A.D. 79 destroyed the ancient town of Pompeii, near modern-day Naples, Italy. A plaster injection process was devised to create casts of bodies encased by volcanic ash.

were overcome as they fled are displayed behind glass. Other highlights of the ruins include Lupanar, a brothel — wall frescoes here depict what was on offer back then — and the House of the Small Fountain, which features a gracious design. The amphitheater is generally a less-crowded spot if you're looking for a break.

What lies ahead for Pompeii is uncertain. The European Union has earmarked millions to protect and repair the site as part of the Great Pompeii rehabilitation project, but progress has been slow. About one-third of the city is believed to be still buried, but a moratorium has been declared on new excavations as a conservation measure. Earlier this year, about \$2.7 million was approved for routine maintenance after heavy rains caused a wall to collapse and some stones to fall at the Temple of Venus.



Partially restored columns stand in the old forum of Pompeii. An estimated 2.5 million people visit the ruins each year.



Stars and Stripes

KNOW & GO

GETTING THERE

Pompeii is on the Circumvesuviana train line, about 30 minutes from Naples, and the Pompei Scavi stop will take you to an entrance.

COSTS

Admission is 11 euros; for 20 euros you can get a three-day pass to Pompeii and four other excavation sites, the best known being the nearby seaside town of Herclaneum.

TOURS

Guided tours are available at the entrance for an additional fee (guides should display a license from the Region Campania), but be aware tours vary in quality. Audio guides are also available for rent.

FOOD & DRINK

Two millennia ago, taverns were liberally represented in Pompeii. Today, there's just one place: Autogrill cafeteria near the Forum. Not exactly Lucullan feasting, but they do sell passive panini.

INFORMATION

Website: pompeisites.org

— The Associated Press

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Traveling smart with smartphones

Today's technology makes travel easier than ever. Even when you want to get away from it all, it makes sense to take your devices with you. You can keep in touch if you want to, plus you'll have instant access to resources that can enrich your trip. I wouldn't leave home without mine.

Essentially, a smartphone helps you make the most of your travel time. For example, some of Europe's blockbuster sights, such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Colosseum in Rome, allow you to buy tickets and have them sent to your phone — enabling you to skip the formidable lines.

You can also check hours and the weather forecast, and get directions to places you want to visit, all to confirm other details that help you plan your itinerary.

Besides managing the nitty-gritty details, you can enhance sightseeing with audio tours and podcasts. (It works best to download these at home before your trip.) I'm even starting to see more innovative ways to use your mobile device when sightseeing, such as the QR codes posted at spots of interest.

With a little preparation, you can text, make calls, and access the Internet — without breaking the bank.

First, confirm that your phone will work internationally. Find out your service provider's global roaming rates for voice calls, text messaging, and data roaming and tell them which of those services you'd like to activate.

(When you get home, remember to cancel these services to avoid extra charges.)

If you'd rather use your phone exclusively on Wi-Fi, ask your provider to deactivate roaming options on your account. You can also put your phone in "airplane mode," and



Stevens

then turn your Wi-Fi back on. Wi-Fi is easy to find throughout Europe. Most accommodations offer it, usually for free. When you're out and about,

head to a cafe. They'll usually tell you their Wi-Fi password if you buy something. Some towns have free public Wi-Fi hotspots in highly trafficked areas. Keep in mind that using a shared network comes with the potential for cyberattacks. It's safest to use a password-protected network rather than being open to the world. If you're not actively using a hotspot, turn off Wi-Fi so that your device is not visible to others. And save your banking and finance chores for your return home.

Data roaming — accessing the Internet over a cellular connection — is handy when you can't find usable Wi-Fi. It's important to set up data roaming with your service provider before your trip; if you do this, it costs about \$25 for around 100 megabytes (enough to view 1,000 emails or 100 websites) — more than you'll

likely need to bridge the gaps between reliable Wi-Fi.

Limit how much data you use by switching your phone's email settings from "push" to "fetch."

Also, be aware of apps — such as news, weather, and sports tickers — that automatically update.

Wherever I go, I appreciate staying connected with my family, friends, work, and most importantly the place I'm visiting.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on television and radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



Dominic Bonouchelli

Catch up on correspondence using Wi-Fi at cafes.

Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolastr. 8 52677 Wieden-Opf Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-wieden.de	Kaiserslautern area Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com	Mainz / Wiesbaden area Steinmetzstrasse 2 55252 Mainz-Kastell 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



IN CONCERT

Japan

JOHN LEGEND: Yokohama, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m., Pacific Yokohama, 8,500 yen; Sunrise Promotion Tokyo 0570-00-3337.

MARIAH CAREY: Chiba, Oct. 4, 5 p.m., Makuhari Messe International Exhibition Hall 7-8; Yokohama, Oct. 6, 7 p.m., Yokohama Arena, 9,000-18,000 yen; Udo 03-3402-5999.

FATBOY SLIM: Chiba, Oct. 19, 3 p.m., Makuhari Messe, 9,800 yen standing; Smash 03-3444-5751.

THE HEAVY: Tokyo, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Ebiisu Garden Hall, 6,500 yen, standing; Smash 03-3444-6751.

THE METERS EXPERIENCE: Tokyo, Oct. 27-28, 7 & 9-30 p.m., Billboard Live Tokyo, 7,500-9,500 yen; 03-3405-1133.

OFF BASE



NONO MUSEO/Stars and Stripes

See the moves at Mitaka Awa Odori

Awa odori is a unique type of dancing that originated in Tokushima prefecture, Japan. Ren — a group of dancers — distinguish themselves by displaying difficult variations and wearing colorful costumes. This is a ren of women dancing with music during a parade down on main streets of Mitaka city, Tokyo. Catch the event Aug. 30 and 31 on Chuo and Sakura streets of Mitaka city.

FIREWORKS

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

CHARA-HOBBY 2014 C3xHOBBY (Chiba prefecture): Aug. 23 and 24, 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m.; one of Japan's largest trade shows for animated character goods and hobby items; Makuhari Messe Exhibition Halls 1-3; 1,500 yen adults, ages 12 and under free.

EIHEIJI TEMPLE LANTERN FESTIVAL - KUZURYU MATSURI (Fukui prefecture): Aug. 24, 6 p.m.; floating lanterns on the water of the River Kuzuryu from Eihei Temple Riverside Park Kasen Koen, after a Buddhist memorial service by monks practicing asceticism; fireworks 8:40 p.m.; 1,500 yen to float a lantern.

KENSHIN MATSURI (Niigata prefecture): Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m.; commemorating Kenshin Uesugi, a samurai hero of Joetsu city, with a samurai warriors parade and a re-enactment of

the Kawanakajima Battle (1561) at the site of Kasugayama Castle on Sunday; 30-minute walk from JR Kasugayama Station on Shinetsu Line.

FUJI YOSHIDA FIRE FESTIVAL (Yamanashi prefecture): Aug. 26 and 27, celebrates the end of Mount Fuji's climbing season and honors the guardian spirit of the volcano. Guests can enjoy a mikoshi (portable shrine) procession during the festival, large bonfires that line the village road and 100 festival stalls; Fuji Sengen Shrine; tinyurl.com/kfesp9.

ECO EDO NIHONBASHI ART AQUARIUM 2014 (Tokyo): Through Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and 7-11 p.m.; 5,000 goldfish in water with the theme of Seeking Cool Air with Edo-Period Styled Practices; Corredo Muromachi, Nihonbashi Mitsui Hall; 1,000 yen adults, 600 yen kids, free ages 3 & younger; tinyurl.com/meqajc3.

Okinawa

RYUKYU DYNASTY MOON VIEWING FESTIVAL: Sept. 6 and 7, 6:30-9 p.m.;

reproduction of the Mid-Autumn Banquet held during the Ryukyu Dynasty to welcome envoys from China. Visitors can enjoy Okinawan traditional performing arts under the autumn full moon at Shuri Castle Park, 1-2 Shuri Kinjo-cho, Naha city; tinyurl.com/8j3s2zn.

South Korea

GOESAN RED PEPPER FESTIVAL (Chungcheongbuk-do): Aug. 28-31; held during harvest season to promote peppers grown in Goesan; Sports Complex, mini-football field, Culture & Sports Center, Dongjincheon Stream area; free; tinyurl.com/mcevgcv.

ICHEON CERAMIC FESTIVAL (Gyeonggi-do): Aug. 29-Sept. 21; Icheon has 1,000 years of history in ceramic arts including Korea's finest ceramics such as Chogong, Baekja and Buncheongsagi, and this event includes ceramics excavation, hands-on experience programs and more; Seoul Bong Park; free admission; ceramic or.kr.

For a list of displays in Japan and South Korea: stripes.com/go/pacificfireworks



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Nice alternatives to some well-trodden tourist spots

By JOSH NOEL
Chicago Tribune

For decades, visits to New York City have meant Broadway shows, Fifth Avenue shopping and slack-jawed stops at Times Square and the Statue of Liberty. Those experiences will always remain quintessential New York, but for the last year the city's tourism bureau has urged visitors to get a little more creative.

"A lot of great things are happening in midtown Manhattan," said Chris Heywood, spokesman for NYC & Company, the city's marketing and tourism bureau. "But if you're a repeat traveler and looking for something different, we encourage going to another neighborhood and exploring the corners of the city."

NYC & Company promotes a different part of the city each month, and most would be head scratchers to the average tourist: Arthur Avenue in the Bronx ("The real little Italy of New York," Heywood said). A full list can be found at nycgo.com/nxn.

We polled Chicago Tribune staff writers and contributors for suggestions on where to travel beyond the obvious.

United Kingdom

Drive the countryside. Fly into



Stars and Stripes

Instead of visiting Bruges, consider Ghent, Belgium.

Edinburgh, Scotland, and drive north, stopping in the fishing villages of the northeast. Once in Anstruther, you'll never want to leave. Or from London take a train to Reading and rent a car, then begin exploring. It's less frenzied, there are fewer tourists (the natives are just as nice if not nicer), and you see plenty of history and natural beauty. (William Hageman)

Tuscany

In frenzied Florence, Italy, skip the crowds of Galleria

dell'Accademia, the home of the original David statue, and head to Piazzale Michelangelo. At the top of the piazzale stands a replica of the statue, along with views overlooking the entire city; locals swear it offers the best views, especially at sunset. It also conveniently has food trucks and wine vendors. A five-minute walk away is the Michelangelo hostel, but it's not stereotypical hostel. It offers more sparkling city views, a solid restaurant and private rooms for about \$20 per night. (Lindsay Friedman)



AP

Visiting Hong Kong? Take in the view from the Ozone Bar at the Ritz-Carlton.

Belgium

The movie "In Bruges" helped cement that city as one of Belgium's biggest tourist draws, but 25 miles away sits an even more picturesque and charming city: Ghent. Cut by rivers and canals, Ghent manages to be one of Belgium's largest cities while remaining absolutely picture-perfect old Europe and rarely seeming overrun by tourists (unlike Bruges). Fantastic food, sights and beer make it an ideal base for exploring the Flemish region of the country. (Josh Noel)

San Antonio, Texas

Take a five-minute stroll from the busy San Antonio Zoo and you'll find an ultra-casual experience that's a world apart from the Tex-Mex sights and sounds of the Alamo City. The Japanese Tea

Garden, nestled in Brackenridge Park, is tranquil and lush with exotic vegetation, an open-air pagoda, koi ponds, stone bridges and a 60-foot waterfall. Near the entrance is the delightful Jingu House Cafe, which serves sandwiches, salads, bento boxes, desserts and tea and other beverages. The historic garden is behind renovations, so call before going. (Brenda Richardson)

Berlin

For a cultural treasure hunter, the Mauerpark Flohmarkt is a Sunday flea market bursting with vendors selling vintage beer steins, jewelry made from old electronics, German sweets, vinyl records, designer clothing and more. Along with a 100-foot strip of the Berlin Wall, it's also a place to find the most enchanting variety of German life, from the tattoo-laden to casual day-trippers. (Heather Schroering)

Hong Kong

Take a sleek elevator ride to the ultra-swanky 118th floor of the Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong, to Ozone Bar, the highest bar in the world (depending on whom you ask). From there you can sit indoors or outside, indulge in sophisticated cocktails and Asian bites, and enjoy arguably the best views in Hong Kong. (Amy Carr)

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Hong Kong means business



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALAN BEHR/MCT

A view of Hong Kong Island from Victoria Peak, the city's highest mountain. Once picturesquely run down, the city has spruced up, built up and grown quite rich.

Harbor city sheds tawdry image for world-class commercial culture

By ALAN BEHR

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

On the walls of the spiral staircase above the entrance to the Hong Kong Club, you still find whimsical portraits of British men of power and influence. From 1848 until the 1970s, membership was restricted to white male Britons. You hear now how, beyond such fortresses of exclusivity, much of Hong Kong during British rule was tawdry and picturesquely run down, its alleys catering to goings-on you would just as soon not know about.

Since the Chinese got their harbor back in 1997, Hong Kong has spruced up, built up and grown quite rich. New skyscrapers seem to pile atop each other along the harbor shore of the island, and from the high bridge to the airport, you can see the procession of container ships carrying to American ports all those things that Americans want and that their own inef-

ficient, unionized factories had made for them before losing out and shutting down.

Not surprisingly, each year, Hong Kong sheds more of the remaining rustic dilapidation that Westerners still find alluring. It is the West, after all, that is still a touch romantic about "the mysterious East," even as East Asia's practicality and business-first attitude make the West look dreamy and romantic in comparison. Hong Kong proves that more than just about anywhere on the Pacific Rim, which is why seeing it on a business trip is the right way to do it, as I had, to attend a legal conference.

That's also about the only logical way to do it, because about all that Hong Kong has to offer the short-term visitor are clean offices, perfect luxury shops and restaurants with Michelin stars. There is a Hong Kong Disneyland, and at night, the island's office towers and convention center, having little else to do after hours, put on a sound and light



Tea is served at a meeting at Hong Kong's Peninsula Hotel.

show that spans the harbor. The city's highest mountain, Victoria Peak (known as "The Peak"), offers a delightful view of the city. This being Hong Kong, it also houses a shopping mall.

There is also Victoria Park, which offers shaded walkways and sports courts. On Sundays,

open spaces in the park are filled with many clusters of the Filipino and Indonesian servant women on whom the locals depend to keep their lives tidy. Sunday, universally in town, is the maid's day off, and they celebrate that communally.

In my legal practice, I work

extensively with international luxury brands, and I live in Manhattan, where most of the big ones maintain stores. Even Manhattan could not prepare me for Hong Kong, where nearly every luxury brand has two shops and perhaps more — or for the singular peculiarity of my visit: Every luxury store I visited was beautiful, inviting and completely empty of humanity except for its well-dressed and obviously bored sales staff. According to the news, currency fluctuations and a few squabbles between the mainland and Hong Kong sent away mainland tourists and their new wealth. The local population, in turn, appeared to favor modest dress — more H&M than Brunello Cucinelli.

The tradition of Hong Kong as a base for bargains therefore is no longer entirely true, and as anyone conversant with either Amazon or eBay knows, what is sold here on the cheap can easily be shipped just about anywhere.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Retro trend puts 1960s campers in big demand

By JACKIE BURRELL
Contra Costa Times

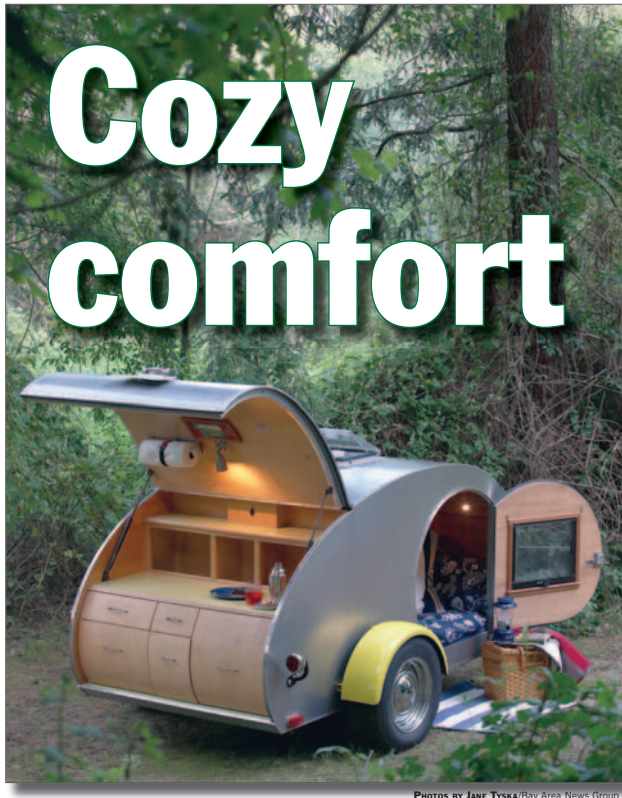
There's something about s'mores, ghost stories and olive-hued canvas tents that taps into our deepest collective subconscious. Your childhood camping adventures might have involved a rip-stop nylon, instant pop-up — or a hotel — but there wasn't a soul who saw Wes Anderson's recent "Moonrise Kingdom" and didn't sigh with nostalgic delight over the Khaki Scouts' olive drab, plaid-lined tents.

Camping speaks to our frontier past, the days of wagon trains and wilderness encampments. So when Airstream designer Wally Byam began sketching out plans for his first DIY travel trailers in the 1920s, the concept took off like wild-fire. By the '50s, his company's silver, capsule-shaped Airstreams were one of the nation's most iconic products, with caravan rallies popping up in this country and abroad.

The Airstream has made a major comeback in recent years — and whether that has fueled a vintage camping trend or it's the other way around, one thing's for sure: It has become increasingly easy to rent a retro trailer for a weekend, whether it's an Airstream, a teardrop camper or a refurbished vintage VW bus. Ready to rent on-site, Airstreams are popping up in KOAs and other campgrounds. And the Autocamp, Santa Barbara's "boutique Airstream lodging" concept — a downtown pod of five fully decked-out trailers — is expanding to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Ventura Beach, Calif., this year.

So it was only fitting that when we took a retro teardrop camper out for a recent weekend spin, what should we run into but an Airstream rally with more than 80 silver campers glinting in the sun, smack dab in the middle of our Russian River campground.

We'd picked up an adorable teardrop in Penngrove, Calif., near Petaluma, where Vacation in a Can's Joe and Leslie Kosareff refurbish, build and rent out these tiny retro trailers. Joe grew up camping in Oregon and at Lake Tahoe; Leslie spent her childhood vacations at Lake Shasta. But sleeping on the ground becomes less comfortable as one ages — and some people would say it was never very comfortable in the first place. So Joe set out to find a middle ground, something small and non-RV-like, but with an actual bed. He found it in that darling of the Great Depression,



PHOTOS BY JANE TYSKA/Bay Area News Group

A teardrop camper makes a snugly retreat for two people and has a tidy camp kitchen in the back.

the teardrop-shaped camper.

Popular from the 1930s to the '60s, these little trailers are 4 to 6 feet wide, 8 to 10 feet long and light enough that you can park your car, unhook the camper and just pull it into place. The campers are making a big comeback now, so much so that the Kosareffs can barely keep up with the demand, and other teardrop manufacturers are springing up across the country.

Teardrops are a cozy camping option for two snugly people. There's plenty of room to sit up inside, space for stashing some clothes and gear, and the foam mattresses range from 74 to 49 inches long. If you, like me, have issues with claustrophobic spaces, it's helpful to leave one of the doors ajar during the night.

The best part is the tidy camp kitchen in back, which Joe and Leslie have equipped with everything from pots, pans to tableware, and the work surfaces are counter height.

If you thought the pictures of teardrops were cute, wait until you see one in person. Campers kept wandering into our site, eager to take a peek inside the adorable trailer — and we kept wandering over to the Air-



Getting in on the teardrop craze, two Chihuahuas have their own retro-style doghouse at a California campsite.

stream encampment to chat with the most sociable assortment of people we've ever encountered. They meet twice a year at rallies like this — a throwback to the 1950s, when Byam's caravan club gathered in spots all over the world.

This particular group was eager to offer peeks inside their trailers, which ranged from meticulously redone Flower Power-era models to land yachts

with glass shower doors and flat-screen TVs. In fact, Airstream-hopping is de rigueur. Everyone was peeing inside everyone else's. By nightfall, the trailer awnings were slung with retro twinkle lights and a massive cocktail party was in full swing.

We meandered back to our own quiet campsite, tucked among the trees, for a camping cocktail party of our own.

FROM PAGE 34

But there still are deals to be had. A Nikon camera that costs almost \$3,000 in the United States was going for about \$2,000 in two stores I surveyed. The current flagship Leica, however, went for more than the U.S. street price — until the haggling started.

Some in our group went to Hong Kong tailors, long famous for speed and value. And yes, they do work fast and fairly inexpensively, but it usually takes a few tries before made-to-measure done anywhere comes out exactly right, so look for a tailor with a solid reputation.

If you really want to experience traditional Hong Kong commerce, just walk along Nathan Road or nearby streets in Kowloon and endure the long-honored Hong Kong ritual of shaking off touts who follow along, offering tailored clothes, counterfeit watches or a "massage." In time, my answer would become, "I have a tailor; I have a watchmaker; I have a prostitute." Perhaps sensing that the last of those was not true, the response would be, "What you want?" to which my reply would be: "Nothing from you."

By chance, while my meeting was in town, Art Basel Hong Kong was setting up at the other end of the convention center. As the 245 art galleries from around the world were building their displays of contemporary and modern Art, I ran into a former partner from Charlotte, N.C.

Perhaps knowing that I am an art critic and from New York, he had one question: "Why is everyone there wearing black?" My answer: "Because it's considered cool, and if you are spending \$2 million on a picture, no one cares what you are wearing."

That night, at the VIP vernissage that opened the show, there were artists in black, there were patrons dressed as if for a Park Avenue dinner party, and there were others dressed as if angling for a prize for most original costume in an independent film that failed to find distribution. Stuck in the middle of it all, rooted to their booths like redwoods to the forest floor, were the gallery people, conservatively and finely dressed, doing their utmost to show grace under pressure as they presented for sale, at great risk to fortune and reputation, what art galleries trading in the new offer everywhere: desire, devotion and expectation.

A clumsy connoisseur swung her bag into sculpture and broke off a piece. The work — a whimsical slave gallery in wood — was quickly repaired from spare parts wisely brought over by the Tokyo gallery that displayed it.

Hong Kong is indeed a world city now, and the movable feast of the international class of money, power and fame was passing through Art Basel Hong Kong that evening, on its way to its next destination. There can be no better proof that Hong Kong has arrived on the world travel circuit, speaking in its own voice and revealing what pleases it to show as it collects its fair share from all who attend.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

**Billy Joe Shaver**

Long in the Tooth (Lightning Rod)

Old cowboys love to lament that contemporary country music's in a sorry state and guilty of casting aside sage singers and songwriters — like Billy Joe Shaver. The crusty Texan trots out that trope at the start of his new album, then spends the rest of the record showing he still has plenty to say.

"Long in the Tooth" covers a wide range of topics in 10 songs and 32 minutes. Shaver sings about politics, war, the lessons of Jesus and the Garden of Eden, and that's just in four verses on the tune "The Git Go."

The title cut's a hoot, with Shaver noting that as his 75th birthday approaches, "what I used to do all night, it takes me all night to do." He sings about the rails on "Sunbeam Special," then rails against America's class divide on "Checkers and Chess."

Best of all is "I'm In Love," a ballad bemoaning its simplicity as Shaver pledges everlasting devotion. The song's a testament to this cowboy's staying power.

— Steven Wine

The Associated Press

**Brian Setzer**

Rockabilly Riot! All Original (Surfdog)

Brian Setzer deserves plenty of credit — for the '80s rockabilly revival with the Stray Cats, the swing revival of the '90s with the Brian Setzer Orchestra and classics like "Rock This Town." But on "Rockabilly Riot! All Original," he reminds us what a crack lyricist he is, spinning memorable rockabilly tales about Elvis-influenced "Calamity Jane," Flatfoot Sam (who went "you'd expect of her" — showcased a more vocally confident singer in "Vinyl Records") and the car-obsessed narrator of "I Shoulda Had a V-8." He's at his best in "The Girl With the Blues in Her Eyes," where he channels Gene Vincent filtered through Paul McCartney for a should-be classic.

— Glenn Gamboa

Newsday

Revisiting a landmark

Artists cover Cash's Native American concept album

Throughout his career, Johnny Cash sang about the downtrodden, giving a voice to the voiceless. But his 1964 concept album, "Bitter Tears: Ballads of the American Indian," started a new conversation about social awareness.

The collection of songs written by Cash and Peter La Farge provided strong commentary about the U.S. government's mistreatment of Native Americans. Cash's record label tried talking him out of releasing the album, fearing it would alienate his country music fan base, but his regard for speaking out against injustice was more important.

Kris Kristofferson, Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, The Milk Carton Kids and others

**Various Artists**

Look Again to the Wind: Johnny Cash's Bitter Tears Revisited (Sony Masterworks)

transform Cash's political statement into a rootsy collection in the new album, "Look Again to the Wind: Johnny

Cash's Bitter Tears Revisited."

Kristofferson handles the original album's biggest track, "The Ballad of Ira Hayes," with help from Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. Other standout performances include Harris taking on "Apache Tears," a heartfelt version of "The Talking Leaves" with Nancy Blake supported by Harris, Welch and Rawlings, and Rhiannon Giddens' haunting cover of "The Vanishing Race."

The cover album also includes three additional tracks: reprises of "As Long as the Grass Shall Grow" and "Apache Tears," and a track left off the original called "Look Again to the Wind."

— John Carucci
Associated Press

TOP FLOPS OF 2014 ... SO FAR

There's been plenty of smash albums this year. Pharrell cashed in on last summer's "Happy" with his breakout sophomore effort this year. Coldplay not only notched another behemoth debut but provided a soundtrack to "conscious uncoupling" in the process. Eric Church and Brantley Gilbert both made it rain on the charts, and Michael Jackson even found a hit album from beyond the grave. But 2014 has also seen a number of epic failures. Here are 10 of our favorite flops from the year.

Robin Thicke, "Paula"

First-week sales: 24,000

Why it bombed: An album dedicated to your estranged wife sounds like a promising idea. Except when the record turns out to be a creepy, hastily crafted mass culpa like this one. From begging for his actress wife to take him back during every performance to teaming with 1-800-Flowers for branded bouquets, Thicke's follow-up to the massive "Blurred Lines" went down in flames.

Mariah Carey, "Me I Am Mariah ... The Elusive Chanteuse"

First-week sales: 58,000

Why it bombed: Mariah has delivered indelible pop hits for more than 20 years, but the rollout for her latest album was nothing short of disastrous. She spent two years teasing the project with mediocre singles ("Triumphant [Get 'Em]," "You're Mine (Eternal)") and countless delays. That mouthful of an album title didn't help either.

Candice Glover, "Music Speaks"

First-week sales: 19,000

Why it bombed: One of "American Idol's" finest winners in recent years never had a chance. Her 2013 run on the series was overshadowed by sagging ratings, bitter judge rivalries and a pending reboot. And her album — a sturdy R&B offering — was issued when the series was deep into its new season. She suffered the lowest first-week sales of any previous winner, including the ones we can't remember.

Jennifer Lopez, "A.K.A."

First-week sales: 33,000

Why it bombed: Lopez, like Carey, found out just how tough it is for veteran pop divas these days. Her latest album — packed with the pop, hip-hop and dance tunes you'd expect of her — showcased a more vocally confident singer. It still wasn't enough to win over the critics — or listeners, who had long written off "Jenny From the Block."

Lea Michele, "Louder"

First-week sales: 62,171

Why it bombed: By the time this Broadway-favorite-turned-TV-star issued her long-anticipated debut, "Glee" had almost lost most of its sheen. And while she handled the tragic death of her boyfriend and costar Cory Monteith with grace on "If You Say So" (written by Sia Furler), the rest of the album — although beautifully sung — lacked personality.

50 Cent, "Animal Ambition"

First-week sales: 47,000

Why it bombed: Fifty's business ventures have proved more compelling than anything he's recorded as of late. Aside from his core fan base, who even knew he had an album out?

Tessanne Chin, "Count on My Love"

First-week sales: 7,000

Why it bombed: Winning "The Voice" means what, exactly? The show has yet to yield an actual star. But for some reason, a new season of "The Voice" continues to air twice a year, and viewers can't invest in the previous winner before they are asked to vote for a new one.

Asanti, "Braveheart"

First-week sales: 28,000

Why it bombed: The album's first single came out in 2011. Was the wait worth it? Absolutely not. "Braveheart" is an expired set of forgettable club stompers and tired ballads that lacked the sass and inspiration of her earlier work.

Mary J. Blige, "Think Like A Man Too"

First-week sales: 8,688

Why it bombed: An original album that served as a soundtrack to Great. Except Blige's music barely had a presence in the actual film, so it served no purpose. Besides, the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul should never play second fiddle to a predictable rom-com.

Austin Mahone, "The Secret EP"

First-week sales: 46,000

Why it bombed: Despite the teen "phenom" being promoted as the second coming of Justin Bieber, none of his music won us over. The kid has a rabid fan base and yet he's still not a star? Weird. But we love that song from that ever-present sparkling water commercial anyway.

— Gerrick D. Kennedy/Los Angeles Times

**Chase Rice**

Ignite the Night
(Dack Janiels/Columbia)

On "Do It Like This," country singer Chase Rice suggests he and his friends prefer pulling out a fiddle at a back-country bonfire to dancing under a disco ball. But the track contradicts that sentiment by employing pop and hip-hop influences more befitting an urban dance floor than a rural, electricity-free setting.

"Do It Like This" from his new album "Ignite the Night" opens with the sound of a scratching turntable, a vocoder-altered voice track, and an electronic drum pattern — even the banjo sounds like a looped sample.

That isn't a big surprise, considering Rice is the co-writer of the monster crossover hit "Cruise." Rice takes a wholly modern approach on his debut major-label album. Recent radio hit "Ready Set Roll," uses the mix of rap and singing heard on hits by Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean and Luke Bryan. Like those artists, Rice won't be heralded by tradition-loving country fans. But the huge crowds rallying behind his contemporaries will find plenty to like about "Ignite The Night."

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press

**Cory Branan**

The No-Hit Wonder (Bloodshot)

Like all good country music, Cory Branan is hard, if not impossible, to define. That's probably because you could argue he weighs equally into at least three other genres: he's got a rollicking rock 'n' roll straightforwardness, a quick-witted punk-infused grittiness and the evocative songwriting prowess of a folk troubadour. On his fourth album, "The No-Hit Wonder," Branan seems able to effortlessly bring it all together, creating a cohesive juggernaut of a record that's every bit as sharp and clever as it is melodic, catchy, and downright fun to listen to.

— Scott Recker

PopMatters.com

WEEKEND: MUSIC



Various Artists

Warby Parker Presents Song Reader: 20 Songs by Beck (Warby Parker/Capitol 3)

What started life in 2012 as an elegantly old-timey volume of sheet music of new Beck songs published by McSweeney's blossoms into what was intended by its author: something purely interpretive, a chance for others to sing out, to bring their own voice to his music. Performers did not have to consider themselves obliged to follow Beck as the mini-funkateer of "Odelay" or the melancholy apologist of "Sea Change." All they had to do was not be Beck. He in his sole appearance ("Heaven's Ladder") sounds more Canterbury folk than his usual California cool.

The high-profile indie likes of Jack White, Jack Black(!), and Laura Marling sound solely (and sorely, even glumly) like themselves. Norah Jones, too, comes across as timidly confused. By contrast, the art-pop band Sparks, folkie Loudon Wainwright III and glam elder David Johansen have spirited gloss with their tracks while maintaining their individuality. The band fun, proudly lives up to its name, while Colombian pop sensation Juanes offers something rousing, anthemic and flavorful.

—A.D. Amorosi

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Lee Bains III & the Glory Fires

Dereconstructed (Sub Pop)

Alabama-born gospel-reared rocker Lee Bains spends a lot of time thinking about Southern identity on "Dereconstructed." You might not immediately notice the soul-searching nature of songs like "The Weeds Downtown" and "The Kudzu & The Concrete," however. That's because Bains, a former member of the much-loved Dixiecents, rocks with such bracing abandon as he brings howling garage-punk intensity to the Southern rock lineage that runs from Lynyrd Skynyrd to the Alabama Shakes. The sonic assault can be too undifferentiated from track to track, but Bains' best intentions, in singing songs as a proud Southerner horrified by the bloodstained past of the land he loves, still comes ringing through, very loud if not always crystal clear.

—Dan DeLuca

The Philadelphia Inquirer



THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM

STRETCHES ITS SOUND

The Gaslight Anthem

Get Hurt (Island)

The Gaslight Anthem's transformation is so complete that the first half of the new album, "Get Hurt," sounds like it came from an entirely different band.

The New Jersey quartet, led by Brian Fallon, built its major-label reputation on revved-up, Springsteen-drenched indie-rock anthems, with Fallon's voice often straining from emotional intensity.

But most of that is on hold on "Get Hurt." The opener, "Stay Vicious," blends heavy-metal guitar riffs and stomping verses, though Fallon does try to console freaked-out fans singing, "I still love rock and roll and I still call somebody baby."

On "1,000 Years," while Fallon

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM GET HURT



channels a bit of The Hold Steady, the rest of the band seems to channel Pearl Jam, circa "Ten."

There's a lot of early Pearl Jam references throughout "Get Hurt," as Fallon finds more of an Eddie Ved-

der-esque croon rather than his usual Springsteen-y howl, especially on the title track.

"Stray Paper" seems to capture the latest version of Gaslight Anthem best, aided by producer Mike Crossey, best known for his work with bands that use a range of styles, like Arctic Monkeys and The 1975. It takes the usual cadences of Fallon's vocals and places them in new surroundings, the approach they use for the winding "Hater Skeleton" and the restrained but ambitious "Underneath the Ground."

"Get Hurt" works as a transition album for Gaslight Anthem, a way to break out of a specific, successful style and spread the band's musical wings. They don't always soar, but they will soon.

—Glenn Gamboa/Newsday

The Gaslight Anthem, from left: Alex Levine, Alex Rosamilia, Brian Fallon and Ben Horowitz.

PAMELA LITVY/Courtesy of Big Hassle Media

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Judging a book's cover

‘Chocolate Factory’ fans react powerfully to publisher's new art

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

The legions of readers buying physical books may be growing smaller. But when you mess with their classics, they're as loud as they've ever been.

That's what Penguin discovered last week, when the publishing house's British arm announced the cover art for a 50th-anniversary edition of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." It's an image of a doll-like little girl decked out in heavy makeup and a pink feather boa à la JonBenet Ramsey — no Willy Wonka, no Charlie, and certainly no chocolate.

Although the new edition will be printed only in Britain, it was controversial enough that bookworms worldwide tore their eyes from their reading to register their outrage.

The cover certainly is a departure

from other narrations of the Roald Dahl classic, most of which have featured the famed whimsical illustrations by Quentin Blake. But the "Modern Classics" imprint under which the new edition will be released is not a children's book line.

Instead, the sleek yet strange new edition of "Charlie" is probably intended for older readers, said Nan Graham, publisher of New York-based imprint Scribner. She's well versed in the repackaging of classics, having overseen new printings of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind" and Ernest Hemingway's "The Sun



Penguin/The Washington Post



who act like children. It's a common strategy for publishers, who are always trying to carve out new markets for their books, Graham said.

Is that what the editors behind the new "Charlie" cover were going for? A blog post from Penguin accompanying the jacket art announcement suggested that its eeriness was not unintentional.

Also Rises.

Adults who would not want to be seen reading the story of a cheery jaunt through a candy factory might be more interested in the Modern Classics version, whose cover emphasizes Dahl's dark commentary on parents

"This new image... looks at the children at the center of the story and highlights the way Roald Dahl's writing manages to embrace both the light and the dark aspects of life," it read.

But much of the literary world was not sold on the rebranding. Why did the cover of a novel about five kids and a wonderful — if admittedly bizarre — candy-maker look like a scene from "Toddler & Tiaras"? Commenters on Penguin's Facebook page called it "creepy," "sexualized" and "inappropriate garbage."

Tony Ross, a former publishing house art director who teaches a class on jacket design for the D.C. Public Library, has a particularly bookish perspective. He says the modernization of a beloved children's story, even if it goes no deeper than the cover art, gets to the heart of some reader anxiety — worries that the world is changing, and the book industry along with it.

The classics "are sort of these touchstones for people," Ross said.

The Invisible Bridge

Rick Perlstein

In this brick of a book, Chicagoan Perlstein has done a jam-packed job of chronicling a riveting, portentous period of American history that in many ways taught us lessons we still haven't learned: Engaging in a futile war. Little House covers-ups. CIA spying on everyday Americans. A yearning for a brighter, better future.

Perlstein's exhaustive retelling of this period's history is also exhausting. You have to really want to know about Watergate and the 1976 presidential race to cross the finish line at page 804.

Some of the most fascinating passages come early in the book when Perlstein analyzes a young Reagan. Through an act of will, Reagan convinced himself that his unsettled childhood was wonderful. From age 11 onward, all his stories had happy endings.

Perlstein contends that politician Reagan came along when the nation yearned for a hero. It's an intriguing argument, and Perlstein makes it credibly. But that story line seems almost an excuse for the recap of a tumultuous decade.

Ellen Warren
Chicago Tribune

No Safe House

Linwood Barclay

A family's past continues to haunt Terry Archer and his family as they find it impossible to move on with their lives in this suburban thriller.

Cynthia Archer still remembers a tragedy in her upbringing, and she promised herself that her husband, Terry, and her daughter, Grace, would be trauma-free. That hope was shattered seven years ago when her past reared its head.

Grace is now a teenager, and teen angst has created a rift between mother and daughter. In a moment of anger, Cynthia makes a mistake, and the guilt forces her to move out.

One night, Grace decides to be a bit dangerous with an older boy, and the events that unfold seem to indicate she shot someone. While a father searches for answers, he also tries to keep what happened from his wife.

While this is a sequel to "No Time for Goodbye," familiarity with that earlier thriller isn't required. What makes the story work is the depth and strength of the Archer family and their love for each other that oozes off the page.

— Jeff Ayers/AP

The End of Absence

Michael Harris

"The End of Absence" is a fascinating assessment of this moment we inhabit and, for those old enough to remember, highlights the rare opportunity we have to recall what it was like before we filled our day with unstopable status updates, conversations interrupted by Wikipedia fact checks and the suffocating weight of thousands of emails.

It's all become so normal that it feels as if we knew all of Harris' observations before we read them, though they remain insightful and stunning and frightening. We are denizens of a world where facts are invented, true expertise is devalued, and authenticity is at a premium and distractions reign.

"As we embrace a technology's gifts, we usually fail to consider what they ask from us in return — the subtle, hardly noticeable payments we make in exchange for their marvelous service," he writes. "... Why would we bother to register the end of solitude, of ignorance, of lack?"

Though Harris doesn't totally answer those questions, he makes clear something has been lost, and it's hard not to agree.

— Matt Sedensky/AP

Blood Aces

Doug J. Swanson

Benny Binion, native of tiny Pilot Grove, Texas, began his career as a crooked horse trader, graduated to bootlegging, took over the policy racket in Dallas, broke into the big time by opening the Horseshoe casino in Las Vegas, launched the World Series of Poker and turned the once back-alley game of Texas Hold'em into a worldwide spectator sport.

Along the way, Benny cavorted with gangsters; corrupted cops and U.S. senators; and ordered an untold number of murders. Despite the bodies Benny left in his wake, he barely left a glove on him. A target of federal investigations for decades, he did just five years behind bars for tax evasion.

Swanson, an award-winning Texas reporter, researched his subject meticulously, going through court records and FBI files and interviewing survivors who know parts of the tale. The result is not only a fine biography but also a history of the pre-World War II rackets in Dallas and the birth of Vegas as seen through court records and FBI files and interviewing survivors who know parts of the tale. The result is not only a fine biography but also a history of the pre-World War II rackets in Dallas and the birth of Vegas as seen through court records and FBI files and interviewing survivors who know parts of the tale. The result is not only a fine biography but also a history of the pre-World War II rackets in Dallas and the birth of Vegas as seen through court records and FBI files and interviewing survivors who know parts of the tale.

— Bruce DeSilva/AP

Lucky Us

Amy Bloom

I can't think of a book that has more wittily and movingly encapsulated the years from 1939 to 1949, covering both the Second World War and the periods just before and after.

This richly textured, pitch-perfect flashback had me desperately wanting to somehow contact deceased relatives who lived through that time and quiz them.

The book's protagonist is named Eva Acton. Twelve-year-old Eva forms a tenuous bond with half-sister Iris, 16, that strengthens when they hit the road after Dad literally takes the money and runs. The girls head to Hollywood where Eva plays house while Iris sashays her way into the movie-studio system and its underground lesbian network.

Despite the often fraught, occasionally horrific circumstanc- es Eva and Iris find themselves in, this is a book that's completely permeated with love, humor and kindness. Readers will root for virtually all of the characters, but especially our Eva.

— Joy Tipping
The Dallas Morning News

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



SONY PICTURES/AP

Jamie Foxx, left, and Andrew Garfield star in the new DVD release of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

NEW ON DVD

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2": Spidey battles three foes while trying to work out his love life. Andrew Garfield stars. Overall, the film is an entertaining, high-flying action film that reflects the events that have unfolded in the world of Marvel Comics as closely as any comic-book-inspired film. It finds strength in how much more comfortable Garfield is playing the web-spinner, but it loses energy with some with the villains. Director Marc Webb, who also directed "The Amazing Spider-Man," does a solid job of staging both the big action and emotional scenes. He also gives the movie a kinetic flow, accented by sweeping scenes of Spider-Man sailing through the air that are so good they don't need 3-D to be exciting. This "Spider-Man" doesn't end up amazing, but it still weaves enough of an action film web to please rabid readers of the comics and those who aren't as crazy about the books.

"Hey Arnold! The Complete Series": All 99 adventures starring the kid with a head shaped like a football are on this 16-DVD box set. The series was created by Craig Bartlett as a comic in 1986 and debuted as an animated short for the Nickelodeon film "Harriet the Spy" in 1996. Not only does the animated series include some smart and funny writing, it has a strong voice cast that includes Dan Castellaneta ("The Simpsons"). The DVD will make you shout "Hey Arnold!"

"Rosemary's Baby": The NBC miniseries continues the psychological themes of the 1968 film, but it loses some of the tension and terror by expanding the tale to four hours and moving the setting from New York to Paris. There have been slight variations on events depicted in the original movie and book, but the miniseries generally follows the same story. It's just that the path has been doubled in length. Because the story has been stretched to fill four hours, the action slows — not a good idea when dealing with psychological terror. Even with the changes, there's nothing particularly wrong with the new offering. It just seems unnecessary because the original film is still one of the best when it comes to smart horror films.

Also available on DVD:

"The Quiet Ones": Bad things happen when a professor and his students set out to cure a disturbed patient.

"NCIS: The Eleventh Season"

"Revolution: The Complete Second Season"

"NCIS: Los Angeles — The Fifth Season" "Home Is Where the Heart Is": Three very different people form a bond in a small town.

"The Millers: The First Season": CBS comedy starring Will Arnett and Margot Martindale.

"The Good Wife — The Fifth Season"

"The Legend of Shelby The Swamp Man: Season 1": Follows Shelby Stanga's logging exploits in the swamps of southern Louisiana.

"Jarhead 2: Field of Fire": Marine unit in Afghanistan faces a dangerous mission.

"A Good Man": Former soldier (Steven Seagal) battles the Russian mob.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

The EX factor

Former wives use reality shows to create own lane to fame

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
The Associated Press

Torrei Hart's career took a backseat for years to raise two children, allowing her then-husband Kevin Hart to pursue his comedy career.

The two ultimately ended an eight-year marriage with divorce in 2011 after she says infidelity caused the split. By that time, Kevin's career began to soar while Torrei struggled to get her comedy career back on track.

Now, she hopes it's her time to shine. Hart is among a group of exes having yet another moment in the spotlight, thanks to a new phenomenon in reality television shows: spinoffs based solely on the ex-wives and ex-girlfriends of famous folks.

"It's my time to come up," said Torrei Hart, who along with five other women will star on a new reality series, "Atlanta Exes," on VH1. The show delves into the lives of the women who were linked to highly popular men.

It also stars Tameka Raymond (Usher's ex-wife), Monyetta Shaw (Ne-Yo's ex-fiancee), Christina Johnson (Cee-Lo's ex-wife) and Sheree Buchanan (ex-wife of former NFL player Ray Buchanan).

"It's a great platform," Torrei Hart said. "Look what happens to people who do reality TV. I mean, everybody has a goal in life. You can achieve it through reality television."

But Raymond says aiming toward fame is not her ulterior motive.

"It's not coming up on our strife. We're not trying to come up off of our exes," said Raymond, who was married to Grammy-winning singer Usher for two years before they divorced in 2007. "I think the title may scare people. It might make people tense up. Even the title concerned me in the beginning. But I think it's a draw. I think it's very strategic."

Raymond wants to tell her side of the story after a long legal fight with Usher last year. She lost custody of her two sons to the singer a month after 11-year-old son Kile Glover died in a boating accident in 2012.

"There were so many misconceptions of who I am as a person," Raymond said. "Everything from my marriage to how I

“Everybody has a goal in life. You can achieve it through reality television.”

Torrei Hart
star of "Atlanta Exes"



deal with my children. I figured there's no other way to clear it up, and be my own voice."

The Atlanta version is a spinoff of "Hollywood Exes," which finished its third season in July. Some of the cast members included Nicole Murphy, Jessica Canseco and Mayte Garcia for a show that averaged less than a million viewers. Exes also have been featured in VH1's "Basketball Wives" and various "Real Housewives" franchises on Bravo, among others.

Both the spinoffs and the others offer exes of celebrities an opportunity to tell their stories and promote themselves as entrepreneurs with the hopes of ridding the perception that they're gold diggers.

On the show, Johnson maintains her interior design company, Shaw pens a children's book, Hart releases her cherry limeade-flavored drink mixer called Skippy and Raymond attempts to bring more recognition to her son's foundation, Kile's World.

"The stereotype of a celebrity's significant other or ex is not true," said Monyetta Shaw, who has two children with Grammy-winning artist Ne-Yo, who broke the news of their breakup to his followers on Instagram last year.

Shaw and Ne-Yo still live together in a home in suburban Atlanta. Even though a family portrait is posted on the wall and the singer's awards are cased in the hallways, she said the singer is often away.

"We're not gold diggers," Shaw continued. "We are more than that. We are business women, college educated, very smart, ambitious and role models too."

Some of the cast member's former mates were fine with their being on the show, while others, such as Usher, were concerned about their exes revealing too much.

Hart couldn't care less.

"I guess mine is supportive," she said. "Even if he wasn't, I would still do it. Who cares? He never said 'don't do it.' But he was like, 'Why are you doing it?' I said, 'Because I want to.' And that was the end of that."

Johnson hopes the extra exposure of the show can help other women who are dealing with the aftermath of a divorce or breakup following a long-term relationship.

"We go through it," she said. "But we want women to see being divorced doesn't mean you're a failure. We want women to learn from us."

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Just what the doctor ordered

Following physician's directions is not so easy for some

By Dr. JANE SADLER
The Dallas Morning News

Six months before my children had wisdom teeth surgery, I met with their surgeon and was given verbal and written instructions as well as a video on preoperative preparations. It included necessary information for administration of the children's sedation and antibiotics on the day of surgery.

We arrived early the day of surgery, and my breakfast-deprived children were ready for their operation as I proudly displayed the surgeon's instruction folder on my lap. Then I was asked: "Dr. Sadler, how do they have their preoperative medications?"

"Oh, no! I shrunk back in my chair like the retracting garden hose. That she called me 'Dr. Sadler' in front of the other patients was salt in the wound. Dr. Mom had failed, and it showed clearly in my children's horrified faces.

There are no excuses for my mishap, and I am more than capable of understanding medical instructions. But at least I know that, as a patient, I am not the only one who has had problems.

Early studies reported in Canadian Family Physician first recognized the problem in the 1970s. At that time, less than half of patients given instructions followed them completely, and almost a quarter deviated from the instructions.

Patients receiving information both verbally and in writing were more likely to comply with physician directions. Still, according to a 2013 article in *Medscape*, nearly 50 percent of adult patients still had difficulty understanding and therefore complying with medical instructions.

Not understanding instructions leads to poor medical compliance and might lead to costly hospitalizations and readmissions. Studies released in "The Revolving Door: A Report on Hospital Readmissions 2012" demonstrated that 1 in 8 Medicare patients required readmission after surgical procedures, as did 1 in 6 after receiving nonsurgical medical care.

"Every patient's story about his or her hospital readmission is complicated, unique and hard to characterize. Yet there are common traits across the stories," according to the hospital report.

For example, one patient left the hospital with a diagnosis of smoking-related lung disease, but he had no understanding of how

to use his prescription inhaler properly, and he continued to smoke. Due to his inability to manage the disease at home, his condition quickly deteriorated and he required readmission. After his second hospital discharge, a health-care team intervened to more closely monitor his breathing and had him enrolled in a smoking-cessation class.

Another example from the study describes a diabetic patient admitted to the hospital for dangerously elevated blood sugars. She was discharged without clear instructions on the use of her insulin. Her primary care doctor was not offering diabetes care.

Shortly afterward, she required readmission, but this time she met with a dietician. Together they developed a clear understanding on adjusting insulin doses. Understandably, she fared much better.

Patients and their families can be overwhelmed by the diagnosis of a new disease and might feel that the health care system rushes them too soon to discharge. Sometimes in the clinic, the doctor has to move on to the next patient. Both of these situations can make patients feel unprepared and left on their

own. Neither of these situations is beneficial to the patient or the hospital system. This is why more attention is being given to follow-up care than in prior years.

Before you leave a medical provider's office, be certain to review their instructions and always leave with your own written notes or directions provided by the clinician. Never feel silly about repeating the instructions aloud to get confirmation of mutual understanding. Don't expect to remember everything that was said, because I can assure you that your memory bank is already quite full.

What's my excuse for failing to follow excellent instruction? I have none. I should have been prepared. I assumed I knew what to do on the day of surgery. After all, I am a doctor! Well, this Dr. Mom relearned a valuable and very humbling lesson.

No longer will I leave a medical provider's office without a calendar reminder set into the computer with all instructions needed prior to future appointments.

Thankfully, I had a forgiving surgeon who informed me that he would "probably have made the same assumption," which is doctor-speak for a gentle hand-slap.

— Dr. Jane Sadler is a family medicine physician on staff at Baylor Medical Center at Garland, Texas. View her blog at healthblog.dallasnews.com.



Before leaving a doctor's appointment, make sure to review their instructions. Taking your own notes can also be helpful.

The Kansas City Star illustration



LUIS SINCO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

When shopping for workout apparel, experts recommend focusing on comfort.

Find the right workout gear

By MEGAN VASILADIIS
Chicago Tribune

For Chicagoan Joi Carthan, the hardest part about shopping for workout clothes is finding something both fashionable and comfortable.

"Every body type is different," Carthan said.

When you're shopping for an upcoming workout, experts say to consider a few things alongside comfort.

Material. Sonya Ramgotra, head of design at MPG Sport, suggests looking on the tag for materials that will benefit your workout. Keep an eye out for breathable materials that include moisture wicking, the stretchy material spandex and elastic.

Brooke Johnson, who works in community relations at Lululemon, recommends looking for preshrunk clothes, since those clothes will withstand washes over time.

Be sure to watch out for clothes with seams, which can cause chafing and irritation. And unless you're training for a high-intensity event or in recovery, compression clothing isn't necessary, said Keryn Francisco, creative director at Lucy.

"If you're working out to stay active and fit, we recommend focusing on comfort, such as lightweight fabrics that encourage airflow, (and) cozy fabrics in cold weather to keep you warm and supportive but not restrictive use of stretch," Francisco said.

Depending on how your physical activity, you should look for certain details when shopping. For runners, Ramgotra suggests bottoms with elastic waistbands to keep shorts from falling down, strategically placed pockets and clothing with reflectivity. For yoga, Johnson says to avoid zippers, pockets and loose clothing because you'll be doing a lot of work on your back and stomach.

"When you're working out, you're just thinking of the workout and not the clothes on your body," Johnson said. "The clothes should become like a second skin."

Bikers should look for form-fitted bottoms with padding specific to the hours you'll be riding. Also, cyclists should look for tops with a raglan seam, a seam that's specifically designed for a hunched-over body with a longer backside, Ramgotra said.

If you only plan on doing yoga once a week, then the \$90 yoga pants probably aren't for you. But those who regularly work out might want to consider investing in long-lasting brands.

"I still have Lululemon clothes from when I started working nine years ago," Johnson said.

And according to Francisco, the investment in better material is important for any workout.

"It's worth paying for a garment that has been engineered to have zero distraction, zero chafing and maximum support so you can participate in your activity without thinking about your clothes," she said.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



PHOTOS BY MELISSA NELSON-GABRIEL/AP

Sterling Murset, right, washes a car at the home of Todd Blanchieri, above left, in Pensacola, Fla. The Murset family toured the country doing chores for families in need.

Chore tour

Family's summer travel teaches hard work, service

By MELISSA NELSON-GABRIEL
The Associated Press

The Murset children spent their summer doing chores — just not at their own home.

Financial planner Gregg Murset and his wife, Kami, loaded their six children, ages 7 to 16, in the Phoenix family's RV to do volunteer work at the homes of families in need across the country. Murset said he wanted to combat the mindset of the "entitled generation" one chore at a time.

"I think they initially thought, 'Dad, the chore thing has gone too far, you know, you are crazy.' But as we started reading stories about the people we were going to go serve, it all started to jell for them. They saw the bigger picture," Murset said on a recent morning as the family did chores at the home of Nicole and Todd Blanchieri in the Florida Panhandle town of Pace.

Eight-year-old son Wyatt Blanchieri has Hurler syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that progressively damages his organs and brain. Because Wyatt's parents are often busy with his medical needs, household chores like cleaning the fish tank, vacuuming, mowing the lawn and washing the car sometimes go undone.

The Blanchieris watched as the Mursets pulled ladders, hoses and other cleaning supplies from the RV and set to work both inside and outside their home.

Adam Murset, 11, mowed the Blanchieris' lawn and helped wash their car.

Adam said he wasn't thrilled when his dad first proposed spending the summer doing chores for others. But he said meeting children like Wyatt and doing work at Ronald McDonald Houses around the coun-



Gregg Murset, second from left, and his children sit with Todd and Nicole Blanchieri inside their Pensacola, Fla., home. Father of six, Murset is CEO of myjobchart.com, which teaches kids about work and money.

try has been a good experience.

The reward in helping families like the Blanchieris is about giving back or sharing their earnings with people who need help, Murset explained.

"The next generation thinks 'We are entitled to whatever we want.' Not in my house," Murset said.

For instance, Murset — who has a parenting website — recommends requiring a child to work for the privilege of having a cellphone.

"You've got to tie work and reward together," Murset said. "Especially in that cellphone, it seems like that is such an integral part of a teenager's life, but you tie it to where they have to make them pay for some of it, it makes a big difference."

Murset has also developed a cellphone app that allows parents to assign chores to their children. The kids keep a log and are rewarded points that correlate to a monetary value determined by their parents. The children can then decide whether to save, share or spend what they have earned.

Murset said his older children

occasionally complain that their friends don't always have to work for the things they want. But he said his years as a financial planner taught him that successful people work hard and are smart with their money — a lesson he fought to instill in his kids from the time they were toddlers, having meltdowns in stores about things they wanted.

The Mursets' travels took them 6,500 miles from Arizona to the East Coast and back. A public relations firm helped arrange for publicity along the way, and the family was frequently written up in news reports.

And Adam has learned a lot about doing yard work.

"I've done lawns, like what I did today, and we've pulled trees out and done other things like pulling weeds and picking up leaves," he said.

He added, "At first I thought it was a little crazy because I would have to spend the summer, a month of the summer, away from my friends and stuff, but then, after we started doing it, it became fun and it's been really fun."

SPOUSE CALLS
'Schoolhouse Rock!' and the policy wonk

Watching the machinations of our nation's government — its actions or lack thereof — we may feel helpless, unable to affect the decisions that affect us as military families. But Reta Hicks, an Army wife, attorney and self-described "policy wonk," is convinced that we can make a difference. Hicks has a fascination for the finer points of legislation and policy, particularly as it relates to military members and their families, but realizes that many people feel overwhelmed by these issues.

The basics are not out of reach. For an outline of how federal laws are made, Hicks says look no further than a childhood favorite, "I'm Just a Bill," from "Schoolhouse Rock!" The musical cartoon segment, now decades old, shows the journey a bill takes through the branches of the U.S. government to become a law. (Watch it at tinyurl.com/m498zwn)

"It sounds silly ... but that's the most basic, straightforward explanation of how a policy idea becomes a law," she said. "Once you understand that process, then you have a framework for figuring out how, and where in the process, you might want to engage."

Hicks encourages military families to get involved in their government somewhere in that process. She said state and local participation are often more accessible and applicable than federal activism.

"The truth is, some of the laws that most affect our daily lives are made at the local level, not the national level — laws affecting our kids' schools, sales and property taxes, neighborhood facilities like emergency response and libraries," she said. "Being involved where you live really helps in understanding how all the pieces of our political process fit together."

An easy first step is volunteerism, which is second nature for many military spouses.

"Whether you want to volunteer for a political party, on an issue, or in some bipartisan way, you're sorely needed at the local level," Hicks said.

A partner in a law firm in Houston, Hicks is one of the leaders of the Military Spouse JD Network, an organization of military spouses who are attorneys. She was also named the Armed Forces Insurance 2014 Army Spouse of the Year. The commercially sponsored title, conferred by Military Spouse Magazine, recognized her advocacy of military families and has given her a platform to educate military families about the policies that affect them.

To fulfill this objective, Hicks moderated a webinar, sponsored by the Military Spouse of the Year program, "Policy Bootcamp." In the session, she clearly explains federal budget issues, delineating the purposes of authorizations and appropriations bills, mandatory and discretionary spending, in easy-to-understand language. She also explains sequestration — no small feat. A video of the session is now available on YouTube (tinyurl.com/kftfjd). Hicks said she hopes to conduct more sessions, informing military families about the workings of government and how individuals can be involved.

The best way to begin, she said, is to choose one issue that resonates, learn about it and find out what simple action will make a difference. Doing one thing is easier than taking on the entire political process. Hicks' background in law gives her a leg up on understanding legislation and policy, but she said a law degree is not a necessity for most individuals who can be involved. "Plenty of people on Capitol Hill aren't lawyers," she pointed out, adding that it's important for lawmakers to have interaction with citizens. Without that they become disconnected from the impact of the policy they create, another reason individual activism is important, she said.

"I just think if you spend all of your time in Washington, D.C., it's easy to forget that people in different places and under different circumstances can have very different experiences of the laws and policies being developed," she said. "It's important for communities, and in particular the military community, to foster an ongoing dialogue with our lawmakers. The more they know about how our families live, the more informed their decisions will be."

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousescalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

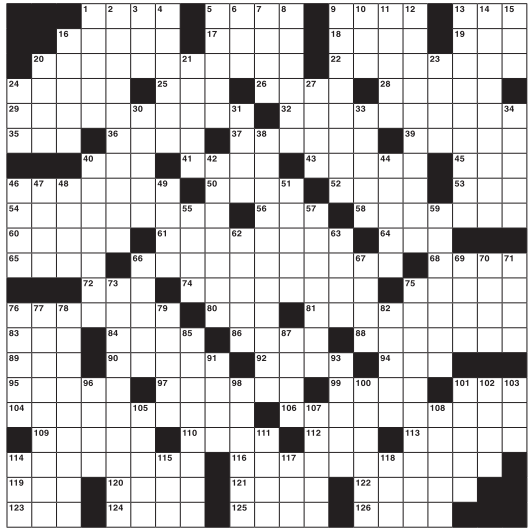
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SITTIN' SOLVE

BY CALEB MADISON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Word after say or now
- 5 Initiator of a probe, maybe
- 9 Mop
- 13 Something five-star hotels provide, informally
- 16 Detective Vance
- 17 Mythological deity with two ravens
- 18 Celebrity chef Matsuhisa
- 19 Part of a titter
- 20 Spellin' things incorrectly?
- 22 Departing words
- 24 Leonardo da Vinci, religiously y
- 25 Platform for many apps
- 26 Nosh on the trail
- 28 R&B singer with the 2004 #1 hit "Goodies"
- 29 Stealin' a hard drug?
- 32 Pushin' some bread back and forth?
- 35 Domain of Jupiter
- 36 Beak
- 37 Enwrap
- 39 Parkinson's treatment
- 40 Global finance org.
- 41 ___ de boeuf
- 43 ___ Fierce (Beyoncé alter ego)
- 45 It's official song is "Home on the Range". Abbr.
- 46 Like some relations
- 50 Lie around
- 52 Where she blows?
- 53 Suffix with glycer-
- 54 Paper pusher?
- 56 Was a bellwether
- 58 Strike first
- 60 Disciplines
- 61 50 Cent piece
- 64 Fair-hiring inits.
- 65 H.S. dropouts' documents
- 66 Not allowin' anyone to cook burgers and franks?
- 68 Google alternative
- 72 Mortal queen of Thebes who was transfigured into a goddess
- 74 Hardens
- 75 Brother, in slang
- 76 Like very few newspapers these days
- 80 To be, in Tijuana
- 81 'Are you done?'
- 83 Place for lambs to frolic
- 84 Wavy do
- 86 Comedic Mort
- 88 Bibliography listings
- 89 Union formation?
- 90 Informally
- 92 Each episode of "Law & Order," say
- 94 Roguish
- 95 Tablet marking options
- 97 Deeply impressed
- 99 ___ Cooper
- 104 1 1/2 of zero?
- 110 California's, with a stopwatch?
- 106 Demonstratin' how to shoot an apple off someone's head?
- 109 French nobleman
- 110 California's, Santa Mountains
- 112 Album with the 1978 hit "Deacon Blues"
- 113 Hot spring?
- 114 Accoutrement popularized by a "Seinfeld" episode
- 116 Usin' less stickum?
- 119 Tap choice
- 120 Put in a bibliography
- 121 ___ socks
- 122 Madcap
- 123 "Gangnam Style" stylis t
- 124 Shipbuilder's starting point
- 125 Orac'l e
- 126 Certain recess
- DOWN
- 1 Egg beater
- 2 Givin' a female casino patron another card?
- 3 Iraq's Imam ___
- 4 Air Base
- 4 Old-timey medicines
- 5 Scandinavian language, to its speakers
- 6 Hubbub
- 7 Make a note of?
- 8 Sweater material
- 9 Medium for many selves
- 10 "I'm speechless!"
- 11 You can count on them
- 12 Makin' some big purchases?
- 13 2002 Dennis Quaid film about a struggling minor-league pitcher
- 14 Places for briefs?
- 15 Big cheese
- 16 Steep
- 20 Unconvincing
- 21 Cyrano de Bergerac, famous y
- 23 Certain charge
- 24 Party entertainers, for short
- 27 Breaks down
- 30 Dieter's label
- 31 This, in Tijuana
- 33 Singer with the 2009 hit "TiK Tok"
- 34 Track listings?
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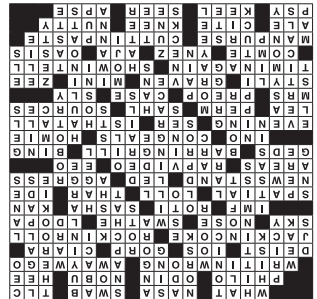
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FACES

'I kind of feel like Rocky'

Busy country artist Trisha Yearwood releasing a new album

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

Once intent on scaling back her career to focus on family, country singer Trisha Yearwood now finds herself with two — platinum-selling musician with a new album on the way and emerging kitchen mogul.

"I kind of feel like Rocky in the first movie," Yearwood said.

An apt description: Yearwood announced Tuesday she's releasing a new album titled "PrizeFighter." The title is taken from a new track she found inspiring as she contemplated relaunching her music career at 49. It coincides with the looming comeback tour with her husband, Garth Brooks. She's also launching cookware and cutlery lines, begins a new season of "Trisha's Southern Kitchen" next week and has her third cookbook out next spring.

"I kind of feel like the odds are not in my favor, so the song is really motivating in that way because it's just kind of like you've got to fight, you've got to fight for what you want," Yearwood said.

She and Brooks begin their tour Sept. 4 in Chicago, where they'll play 11 concerts — "We call it the freak show right now" — and she will be taping new episodes of her show's fifth season between sets while on the road.

As the tour approached, she spent time in the studio tweaking her new album, which includes a hits package and six new songs. The music, she said, has been her priority amid all the other projects.

Trisha Yearwood announced Tuesday she's releasing new music — a hits package with six new songs called "PrizeFighter." Also ahead for her: new cookware and cutlery lines, a new season of her TV show and another cookbook.

MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Two-time 'Dancing with the Stars' champ returning to show as a judge

The Associated Press

"Dancing With the Stars" says two-time champion Julianne Hough is returning to the ballroom as a judge this season. She will preside alongside Len Goodman, Carrie Ann Inaba and Bruno Tonioli.

After serving as a company dancer-choreographer, Hough left the show in 2009 to focus on acting and music.

Her films include "Safe Haven," "Paradise," "Rock of Ages" and the 2011 remake of "Footloose." She released a best-selling album in 2008.

Other news

■ Billy Crystal will pay tribute to Robin Williams, his longtime friend and fellow comedian, at the Emmy Awards. Crystal will honor Williams as part of the traditional in memoriam segment for industry members

who died during the past year, Emmy executive producer Don Mischer said in a statement Wednesday.

■ A photographer sued Justin Bieber and one of his bodyguards Wednesday for assault and infliction of emotional distress over an altercation on Hawaiian beach last year. The lawsuit by paparazzo Aja Oxman states Bieber ordered his bodyguard to take a memory card after the photographer took photos of the pop singer leaping from a cliff into the ocean. Bodyguard Dwayne Patterson placed Oxman in a chokehold and seriously injured him and damaged his camera during the November incident, the lawsuit states.

■ Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey is the new spokesman for Ford's luxury Lincoln brand. Lincoln says McConaughey will appear in a series of TV and digital ads featuring Lincoln's new small SUV, the MKC. The actor says in a statement that he's a longtime admirer of Lincoln.

"I told the Food Network people, I love them, 'You guys are awesome, but I've got to finish my record. I've got to make some music,'" Yearwood said.

Brooks and Yearwood chose to mostly shutter their careers after they married in 2005 and moved to Oklahoma, where they raised Brooks' three daughters. Since then, Yearwood has sold 12 million albums but released very little music. The Grammy Award winner's last album came out in 2007 and plans since were set aside when her mother was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer.

She said she found things too quiet without music, though, and hopes the new music will empower young women, just as several other recent songs by female artists have done.

"I love those songs that make girls put their hands in the air and say, 'Yeah, I can do that,'" she said. "Hopefully this song ('PrizeFighter') will do that."



Laverne Cox

Cox hopes to inspire with her life story

By MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Laverne Cox realizes she is having a winning moment as a transgender actor in entertainment — including a recent Emmy nomination — and she hopes her story will continue to inspire others.

"It gives me hope that anything is possible. I'm a black trans woman from Alabama raised by a single mother from a working class background. And I think in a lot of ways, my story is what this country is about and should be about," Cox said in an interview Wednesday.

"There's a lot of strife going on in the world right now, particularly (for) the folks in Ferguson, Mo., — sending love to them — that I think we need a sense of hope and possibility," she added. "We need a lot of love and I hope my story inspires people."

Cox is one of the stars of Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black," which recently debuted its second season.

The breakthrough show received 12 Primetime Emmy nominations, including outstanding comedy series. Winners will be announced Monday. The series won three honors at the creative arts Emmy ceremony last week, including best guest actress in a comedy series for Uzo Aduba, who beat Cox.

Cox said she is currently filming the third season, and revealed the plot about women behind bars' thickens.

"I can't tell you who I had scenes with ... (but) the scene we shot today was juicy. I was like, 'Oh my god.' Stuff goes down," she said. "I'm so excited about this show and like, these women are killing it. I finished my scene and I waited and watched the monitor like, 'Oh! Oh! Werk!'"

Cox said she will have a role on the upcoming Bravo series "Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce," which premieres Dec. 2.

The former reality star says since the success of "Orange" she's getting more calls.

"There's some things on the horizon," she said. "There have been some wonderful offers."

■ Roundabout Theatre Company said Wednesday Emma Stone will make her Broadway debut Nov. 11 as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" at the Studio 54 theater in New York.

■ Amy Winehouse is to be commemorated with a statue in the London neighborhood where she lived and worked. The late singer's family says the statue will be unveiled in Camden in May on May 31st birthday.

Julianne Hough



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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
amrhein.sam@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
weyr.teddie@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9310; cell
+49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
alexander.paul@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
DSN (315)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
dickson.patrick@stripes.com
(+1)202(761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
gromelski.joe@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
Sports, Features and Graphics
moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

(+1)202(761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
fax: (+1)202(761.0890
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96358-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96358-5002.

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OPINION

Terror group's threat only growing

By MARC CHAMPION
Bloomberg News

The beheading of U.S. freelance photographer James Foley, now confirmed by U.S. officials, recalls the similarly gruesome murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002. It should act as a reminder, too, that the Islamic State began as al-Qaida in Iraq and differs from Pearl's killers only in tactics.

Both proclaimed killings of American journalists were acts of propaganda designed to shock. The leaders of Islamic State aren't naïve enough to believe that Foley's death will persuade the U.S. to end its airstrikes against the group. No more did al-Qaida's self-described 9/11 architect Khalid Sheikh Mohammed expect the U.S. would meet the demand, made on the video recording in which he beheaded Pearl, to release all prisoners from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It's especially chilling that Foley's purported executioner had a British accent — Pearl's kidnapper, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, was also a British national, radicalized while in Bosnia. At some point these people return home, unless killed or arrested. They will return brainwashed and brutalized.

Both al-Qaida and the Islamic State are best understood as nihilist organizations that target anyone who doesn't share their inchoate ideology, rooted in a warped interpretation of fundamentalist Sunni Islam: their enemies range from moderate Sunnis, to Shiites, Christians, Kurds, minority religious groups such as the Yazidi — and, of course, the West.

As ever, success is the best recruiter. Because, until recently, Syrian President Bashar Assad and the Islamic State left each other alone, focusing instead on taking territory from more moderate Sunni rebels in Syria, the Islamic State thrived there. Now it has seized about a third of Iraq and, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, recruited 6,300 new fighters, about 1,300 of them foreign, in July alone. That raises their total to about 50,000 from 15,000 a year ago, the Observatory said.

That's a higher estimate than those of most Western analysts, but the trend is clear. Also important is that this membership boost occurred before the U.S. launched airstrikes, so it was not in response to Western involvement.

The Islamic State differs from al-Qaida in the priority it gives to building a caliphate at the heart of the Middle East, rather

than attacking the West. Yet this is a matter of priorities only: The ideology and methods are shared and when Islamic State fighters go home, it defies experience and logic to believe they won't continue the fight there — one returnee already attacked a synagogue in Belgium.

The question for President Barack Obama and other Western leaders isn't whether to fight the Islamic State, but when. Should it be now, when the group is not yet entrenched in Iraq, and when Assad — finally — has begun to move against it in Syria? Or will it be once its fighters have established themselves in Iraq and Syria and move on to Jordan, as they moved on the Kurds? If they were to succeed in Jordan, why not the Gulf states, where they already recruit and solicit donations? In Iraq and beyond, the nightmare prospect is of an al-Qaida that controls petro-states and enjoys the funds, space and leisure to train jihadists from around the world.

The tragic death of James Foley should not be seen as a signal to step back in the belief that this will only be our fight if we make it so. Foley's killing just confirms what the Islamic State is and what it intends.

Marc Champion writes editorials on international affairs for Bloomberg View.

Obama's response so far to Ferguson is apt

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

As the tumultuous situation in Ferguson, Mo., entered its second week, President Barack Obama stood before the nation and offered a mild, balanced plea.

There is "no excuse" for excessive use of deadly force by police, he observed at a Monday news conference; the family of Michael Brown, gunned down by a white officer under suspicious circumstances, deserves justice. But violent protests "undermine" that cause. Americans should "unite with each other and understand each other." "Listen and not just shout."

If Obama's words were anodyne, his affect was somber and subdued. In a nation rolling with anger, fear and confusion, the president alone appeared unfazed.

To which I say: Good for him.

One thing that's not in short supply in America right at the moment is emotional rhetoric. The airwaves and newspapers and Twitter feeds are thick with it, in case you haven't noticed. Therefore, it's not immediately clear what purpose would be served by presidential venting, especially in the midst of a bitter off-year election campaign, when the money word is bound to be politicized and polarized.

Others disagree. They want Obama to raise his voice, to speak from his heart and from his experience as an African-American, the first to occupy the White House.

MSNBC's Michael Eric Dyson, a professor at Georgetown University, reproaches the president for not using the "bully pulpit" to "tell us as a nation what happens when festering rage in a community then begins to ignite and then begins to consume not only that community but the people around the nation who are empathetic."

My own Dowd at The New York Times says Obama has gone too far in "bully pulpit" to "wet blanket" and demands to know why he won't "stop going to Beverly Hills to raise money and go to St. Louis to raise consciousness."

What distinguishes Obama from these critics, of course, is that he has actual responsibilities, of which the just pressing are to keep a highly dangerous situation



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Attorney General Eric Holder greets Bri Ehsan, 25, following his meeting with students at St. Louis Community College Florissant Valley in Ferguson, Mo., on Wednesday.

from getting any worse and to supervise an impartial investigation of the horrific event that led up to it. If he were to deliver the lecture Dyson recommends, or hold a consciousness-raising session — whatever that is — in St. Louis, he might put both objectives at risk, as he succinctly explained Monday. Having assigned the Justice Department to look into the case, he said, "I've got to make sure that I don't look like I'm putting my thumb on the scales one way or the other."

Obama's swift mobilization of Justice was appropriate. Founded in 1870 for the purpose of protecting Southern blacks during Reconstruction, the department also played a crucial role in civil rights struggles during the 1960s.

Under Eric Holder, the department has stepped up civil rights enforcement generally and supervision of local police in particular. In terms of practical effect, putting DOJ on the case is worth 1,000 speeches.

By the way, if Obama's eloquence really did have the power to solve real-world problems, we might not be facing this sickening mess in Ferguson to begin with, given how often the president has addressed America's troubled race relations already.

You might say the same for the Middle East, where Obama's lofty verbal outreach to "the Muslim world" has given way to airstrikes against a monstrous Islamist insurgency in Iraq.

To some extent, Obama has himself to blame for the latest criticism of his leadership. He has encouraged magical thinking about his presidency — from the day he launched his candidacy on a vague promise of hope and change to his recent promises of "executive action" on a host of issues from immigration to taxes. Indeed, given that history, there is a certain poignancy in the pleas from his supporters for a dose of the old charisma now.

Uncharismatic though it may be, his response so far to Ferguson is perfectly presidential. In fact, his cautious rhetoric may be a sign that he is coming to a more seasoned understanding of the "bully pulpit" and its limitations.

When it comes to events like the death of Michael Brown and the subsequent violence in Ferguson, words fail. This time, we might have to settle for action.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Words won't stop terrorism
The Washington Post

With each day, the barbarism of the Islamist extremists terrorizing Syria and Iraq becomes more evident — as does the need for the United States and its allies to act more vigorously to block their rise.

On Tuesday the group that calls itself the Islamic State released a video of the beheading of American journalist James Foley. Foley, as President Barack Obama said Wednesday, "reported from difficult and dangerous places. ... [H]e courageously told the stories of his fellow human beings." One reason there has been so little outcry as more than 150,000 Syrians have been killed and millions rendered homeless is that reporting on that nation's brutal war is so dangerous. Those like Foley, who risk everything to bear witness, deserve our admiration, and his killers deserve our contempt.

Foley is one among thousands of victims murdered by the Islamic State as it has conquered territory in Syria and Iraq. ... In recent days, the Obama administration has made some progress in blocking the progress of this terrorist group. U.S. troops have helped Iraqi and Kurdish forces recapture some lost territory. U.S. pressure may have hastened the appointment of a new prime minister in Iraq, who, it is hoped, will work across sectarian lines better than his predecessor and so be better positioned to rally his country to defeat the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Obama has emphasized the importance of enlisting the Iraqi army and other local players in confronting this scourge, a goal with which we wholeheartedly concur.

But urging others into the fray will not be sufficient. Nor is it wise to assume that the Islamic State will collapse under the weight of its cruelty. "People like this ultimately fail," Obama said Wednesday. "They fail because the future is won by those who build and not destroy." That may be so. But history provides too many examples of destroyers who hold power for long stretches of time and do not lose it until they are destroyed by "builders" who are finally ready to action.

For three years the United States stood aside as the Islamist extremists built up their strength inside Syria. Washington was surprised in June when they burst into Iraq, captured Mosul and threatened Baghdad, and surged to gain this month when they threatened Kurdistan. Now, according to most accounts, they are consolidating their hold inside a large swath of territory spanning the two nations even as they fight to expand. They are training hundreds of foreign terrorists, including from Europe and the U.S., who could easily slip back into their home countries with malign intent. They proudly proclaim their intent to America. America needs a genuine strategy in response.

Syria's disarmament a mirage
The Wall Street Journal

It wasn't long ago that President Barack Obama boasted of getting Syria to surrender its chemical weapons without firing a shot. But it turned out to be a mirage, getting all the chemical weapons." Obama told the New Yorker last November. "And nobody reports that anymore."

But it turned out there was a good reason to hold the applause. On Monday the White House released a statement in the president's name celebrating the destruction of Bashar Assad's declared stocks of



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Cardinal Fernando Filoni, right, Pope Francis' special envoy to Iraq, blesses a displaced Iraqi man from the Yazidi community at a shelter for displaced Christians and Yazidis in Mangesh, Iraq, on Saturday. Islamic extremists shot 80 Yazidi men to death in Iraq, then abducted their wives and children, officials and eyewitnesses reported Saturday.

chemical weapons aboard the MV Cape Ray, a U.S. ship fitted with specialized hydrolysis systems that neutralize sarin and other deadly agents.

Then came the caveat. "We will watch closely to see that Syria fulfills its commitment to destroy its remaining declared chemical weapons production facilities," the statement read. "In addition, serious questions remain with respect to the omissions and discrepancies in Syria's declaration to the OPCW and about continued allegations of use."

The OPCW is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Hague-based outfit that has overseen the removal of 1,300 tons of chemical agents from Syria. The organization complained for months that Damascus was slow-rolling the disarmament process as it continued to starve and bomb its enemies into submission. In April the Assad regime began dropping chlorine bombs against civilian targets. Chlorine violates the Chemical Weapons Convention, which Syria joined last year as part of the deal that Obama used to celebrate.

Then there are those "omissions and discrepancies" cited by the president. We are not privy to the intelligence, but every source we talk to says the Syrians have surely not declared everything in their possession. It's also hard to believe the administration would underline the defects in its own purported achievement if there weren't serious doubts among U.S. spokes about the completeness of the Syrian declaration. ...

The Assad regime also likely retains the network of scientists and engineers needed to reconstitute a weapons program once it feels secure enough to do so. That day may not be far off, thanks in part to the chemical deal that spared Assad from U.S. bombing as he unleashed a new offensive against moderate rebel forces. ... [w]ho are also losing ground to the Islamic State.

No matter what happens to Syria's chemical weapons, the country's real weapons of mass destruction — the Assad regime and the Islamic State — have gained in their destructive power. Such has been the result of Obama's abdication of global leadership, now cloaked as a triumph for disarmament.

Ancient structures still at risk
The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial

The radical Islamic jihadists are good at many things — beheadings, amputations, terrorizing helpless schoolgirls, alienating populations — but public relations is not one of them.

They should have learned their lesson in

March 2011, when they blew up, over the objections of most of the civilized world, including respected Muslim leaders and scholars, two massive sixth-century Buddhist sculptures in Afghanistan. Their argument, not supported by serious Muslim scholarship, was that they were pagan idols and thus under Islamic law had to be destroyed. Chagrined by the world's hostile reaction, they revised their story to say that they, the jihadists, were offended that the world would pay to preserve the statues while Afghan children were starving, due in part to the depredations and disruptions of the radical Islamists.

Having failed to learn, or at least remember, that lesson, the radical Sunni militias who recently overran the Iraqi city of Mosul set out to destroy the thousands of idolatry, prominent religious sites like the tombs of the prophet Jonah, revered by three major religions; the prophet Seth, reputedly the third son of Adam and Eve; and Jersis, known to Iraqi Christians as St. George.

In all, according to a Shiite website, the self-styled Islamic State destroyed 30 shrines and 15 mosques. Since among the Islamic State's first steps was to expel all the Christians, no one seems sure what happened to their churches and holy sites. The rebels had planned to blow up a beloved local landmark, an 800-year-old minaret known as al-Hadba, the hunchback, for its distinctive lean. The townspeople, according to accounts from Mosul, surrounded the minaret to keep the militants from initially demolishing it.

The destruction of thousands of years of religious treasures and Iraqi culture goes on. If conversion is the goal of this conflict, a visit by more U.S. F-15s and A-10s might make true believers out of these vandals.

Senate NSA bill still lacking
Los Angeles Times

A little more than a year after former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the federal government was collecting and storing the telephone records of millions of Americans, Congress is poised to end the program and provide significant protection for a broad range of personal information sought by government investigators.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has proposed a version of the bill that is significantly more protective of privacy than one passed by the House in May. Like the House bill, Leahy's proposal would end the NSA's bulk collection of telephone "metadata" — information about the source, destination and duration of phone calls — that investigators can "query" in search of pos-

sible connections to foreign terrorism.

But the Senate version, worked out in negotiations with the White House and civil liberties groups, imposes stricter limits on the search terms used to obtain not only phone data but other records as well. For example, the bill makes it clear that the government may not use a search term that would collect all information relating to a particular service provider or a broad geographic region denoted by a ZIP Code or area code.

Finally, the bill provides for the declassification and publication "to the greatest extent practicable" of opinions by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and its appellate arm, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.

Important as it is, the Leahy bill addresses in only minor ways the collection of information about Americans as a byproduct of the electronic surveillance targeting foreigners living abroad. Unlike the collection of telephone metadata, these activities capture the actual contents of phone conversations, emails and social media postings, meaning that if an American is in contact with a friend or relative abroad, his private musings can be swept up in the electronic dragnet. That creates the possibility of "backdoor" surveillance of Americans without the individual warrants required by the 4th Amendment.

A panel appointed by President Barack Obama recommended that information about Americans incidentally collected in foreign surveillance be "purged upon detection" unless it has foreign intelligence value or is necessary to prevent harm to others.

For all its limitations, the USA Freedom Act is a testimony to the importance of informed public debate.

Vetting AF recruiters will help
San Antonio Express-News

The Air Force has come a ways in reforming recruit training since sex abuse scandals rocked the service's boot camp at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. It is now making equally important strides with recruiters.

An Express-News article by Sig Christenson on Monday shed some light on the Air Force's revamped training program for recruiters — Inspire, Dissuade, Detect, Deter and Hold Accountable, also known as ID3A.

It was bad enough when sexual abuse occurred during boot camp, where trainers occupied particularly powerful positions over vulnerable recruits. But recruiters also occupy a position of power, dictating whether an eager potential recruit can get in and how to get in.

One of the most important changes came in who could become recruiters. Air Force personnel used to volunteer for the duty. Now, they are chosen by commanders worldwide and are thoroughly vetted.

The revamped program emphasizes the service's core values — integrity, excellence and service before self. And lines have been drawn.

There are now strict prohibitions on personal and social contacts with potential recruits. And applicants have been empowered to report inappropriate contact.

At least one task remains. It is, however, in Congress' court. Congress earlier this year reformed much of how the military handles sexual assaults. Commanders can no longer overturn convictions on sexual assaults. Victims now get their own lawyers to defend them against a system that seemed to re-victimize them. And civilian review is now required of a commander reviewing a service case to go to trial.

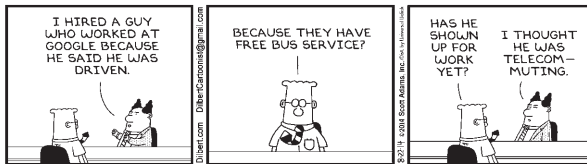
While these are improvements, what's significantly left undone is taking away such decisions from commanders altogether and placing them with experts in the legal process.

The Senate rejected this measure by November. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand. It should revisit the issue.

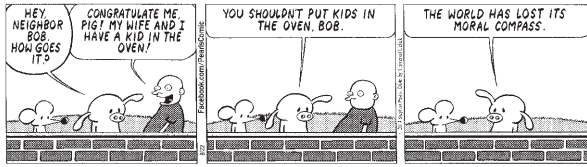
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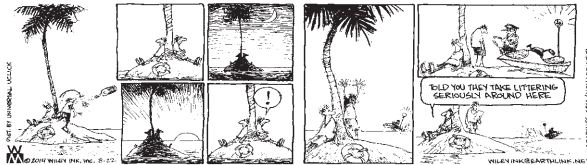
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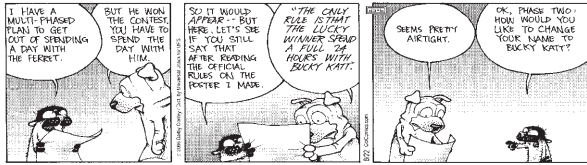
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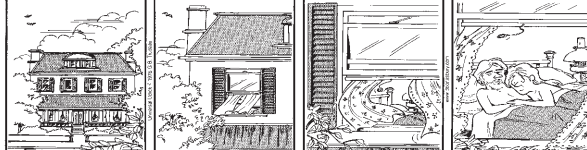
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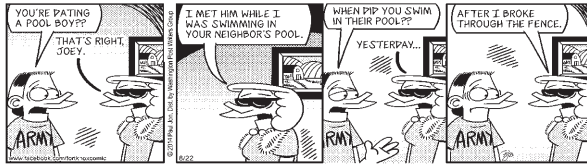
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32			33						34			
			35						36			
37	38	39						40				
41					42	43					44	45
46					47						48	
49					50					51		

ACROSS

- Wrigley wares
- Fellow
- Alkali neutralizer
- Lennon's lady
- Others, with "the"
- Spiral-horned antelope
- Melbourne's state
- Capri, e.g.
- "Arrivederci"
- Urge
- Empty
- Amorphous mass
- Uncomplicated
- South African city
- Enjoy Aspen
- Spa amenity
- Hem and —
- Brain's receptors
- Russian council
- Give temporally
- Urban driver
- Unadorned
- Pop
- Peal
- Bliss
- Swearword
- Arctic predator
- Morsel
- Worry
- Coastal flier
- Video-game family name

DOWN

- Head of st.
- Sea urchin, at a sushi bar
- Comfy shoe
- Frog's noise
- Medal earner
- "— was saying ..."
- Sch. org.
- With hands on hips
- Point
- Not busy
- Burr-Hamilton event
- Wee
- Greek vowel
- Harry's first lady
- Michigan, e.g.
- Bear
- Dunham of "Girls"
- Brazilian rubber
- Heated disputes
- Poetic foot
- Vacationing
- Anytime now
- Unsubstantial
- Pedestal part
- "Yankee Doodle Dandy" subject
- Campus VIP
- Taleteller
- Initial stake
- Boot attachment
- Superlative suffix
- Guitar's cousin
- Midafternoon, in a way
- \$ dispenser

Answer to Previous Puzzle

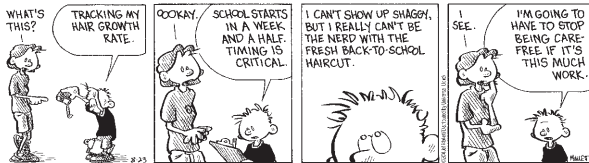
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W	I	K	I		A	G	E		R	A	R	E
A	T	O	P		T	A	R		I	C	E	D
M	O	N	O	D					M	O	C	K
					S	I	R	G	A	L	A	H
W	H	I	T	E		R	I	D		O	B	I
E	I	R	E		B	I	D		D	E	E	R
P	R	O		P	A	L		A	I	S	L	E
T	E	N	G	A	L	L	O	N	S			
					C	O	W	L		H	Y	B
H	A	L	O		A	D	A		A	I	D	E
A	L	A	S		S	U	R		R	O	L	E
W	A	D	E		T	E	A		S	T	E	M

8-22

CRYPTOQUIP

N EANHS DHW VPX YAWH EAW
 LDOB LPELA ENHSWI ZWGG.
 BAW OIDZPZGX YNGG ZW
 RNHWV RDI UGNEEWINHU.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE YOU AND I GAVE THE TODDLER SEVERAL INSTRUCTIONS, I WOULD SAY THAT WE TAUGHT A WEE TOT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals B

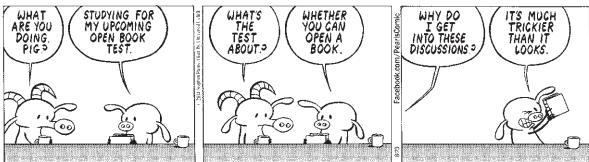
Frazz



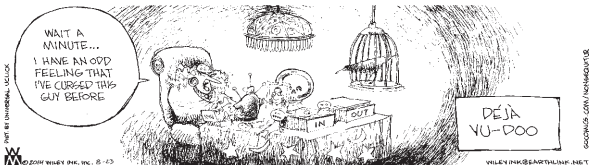
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



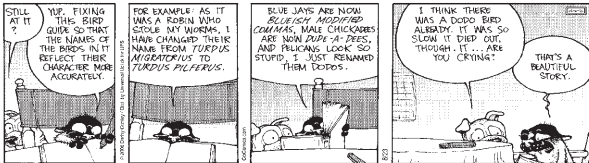
Non Sequitur



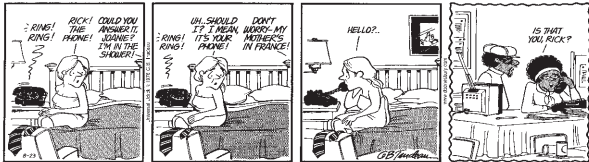
Candorville



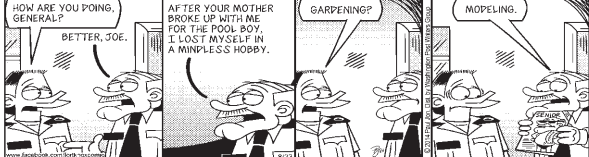
Get Fuzzy



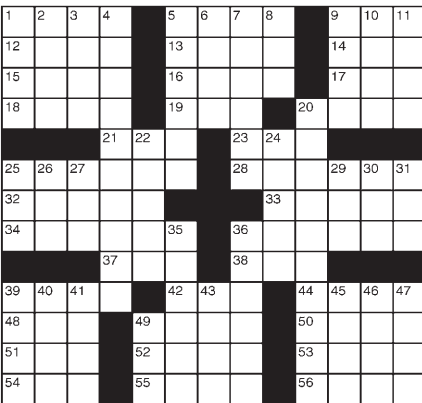
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



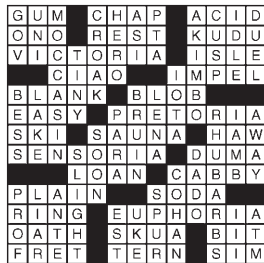
ACROSS

- 1 Rolling stone's lack
- 5 Damon or Dillon
- 9 Allow
- 12 Muscat's nation
- 13 Assert
- 14 "— got it!"
- 15 Actress Sorvino
- 16 Showroom sample
- 17 Blend
- 18 Use a teaspoon
- 19 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
- 20 Filly's brother
- 21 Shade source
- 23 Yoko of music
- 25 Confuse
- 28 Pulled hard
- 32 Old marketplace
- 33 Musical composition
- 34 Watery discharges
- 36 Way
- 37 Atlas page
- 38 On in years
- 39 Big fish story?
- 42 "— Town"
- 44 Colonial sewer
- 48 Work with
- 49 Painter Joan
- 50 In the know
- 51 Cacophony
- 52 "Sad to say ..."
- 53 BLT spread

DOWN

- 1 Mid-May honorees
- 2 Leave out
- 3 Bollywood costume
- 4 Marching band instruments
- 5 Lady of Lyons
- 6 State with certainty
- 7 Hoyden
- 8 Pair
- 9 Wheels of fortune?
- 10 Satanic
- 11 Libretto
- 22 Petting zoo favorite
- 24 Twangy
- 25 Scratch
- 26 "This tastes terrible!"
- 27 Buck's mate
- 29 Family
- 30 Summer on the Seine
- 31 Aachen article
- 35 Booty
- 36 Sad
- 39 Law of movies
- 40 "Yeah, right!"
- 41 Departed
- 43 Orsk's river
- 45 October birthstone
- 46 Sauce source
- 47 Winter forecast
- 49 — tai

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-23

CRYPTOQUIP

BYHB OQZXMPPO FA BYO
QOBHX QFXX UOOZR RBHWFAD
HB ZOMZXO VAAOWGFADXP.

FB'R H GOWP RBOOX P XMMU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK ONE DAY WHEN THE COPS CATCH TINKER BELL, SHE PROBABLY WILL BE FINED FOR GLITTERING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P



Second line data share

Get an iPad as your second line and **SAVE!**

The basic monthly iPad charge for customers with "Voice & Data Flat-rate" is,

ONLY \$25 /month

Converted \$1 = ¥100

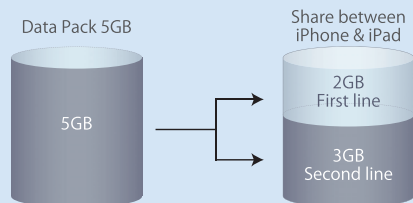
Example of monthly payments & Data sharing (iPhone + iPad)

1st Line (iPhone)	
Voice Flat-rate Plan	¥2,700
Data Pack 5GB	¥5,000
S!Basic Pack	¥300
Total monthly charge	¥8,000 /month

+

2nd Line(iPad)	
Tablet Plan	¥1,700
Web basic fee	¥500
Data share basic fee	¥300
Total monthly charge	¥2,500 /month

Data Pack 2GB (¥3,500) also available.



iPhone additional data Campaign
Get additional 1GB for 13 months!

+

iPad additional data Campaign
Get additional 1GB for 13 months!



AND

<iPhone/iPad additional data Campaign>
Campaign Period: Until August 31, 2014
Applicable model: iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c, iPhone 5, iPad Air, iPad mini Retina display model, iPad Retina display model, iPad min. (Wi-Fi+Cellular model)

NOTE: Price when subscribing to the exclusive two-year contract for Smartphone Flat-Rate. The exclusive two-year contract for Smartphone Flat-Rate is a two-year subscription (automatically renews). Canceling outside the contract renewal period (billing month after the contract expires) incurs a cancellation fee of ¥9,500. If you subscribe to Second line data share, some current discounts may no longer apply.

Some restrictions apply. Please visit following on base SoftBank shops for more information.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

NJ Casino workers pray over job woes

By WAYNE PARRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — They're turned to preachers, bureaucrats, businessmen and unions to try to save their jobs at three Atlantic City casinos scheduled to close soon. Now, hundreds of soon-to-be unemployed dealers, cocktail servers and hotel workers are turning to what many say could be their last, best chance.

"We're praying for God to

open new doors to them," said the Rev. Eric McCoy, president of the Atlantic City Fellowship of Churches.

Clergy members and the main casino workers union organized a rally and prayer service Wednesday night for the nearly 8,000 workers who will be jobless when Revel, the Showboat and Trump Plaza close during the next few weeks.

"We have hope that God is about to restore to them whatever

his plan for them was," McCoy said. "He had plans for us before casinos existed, and he'll have plans for us after they're gone."

Union worker Maria Logan, a member of the New Shiloh Baptist Church, said the challenges are big and real.

"This isn't play," she said. "People are losing their homes and the only means of supporting their families. This is very scary for people who are in a situation they never expected. Some peo-

ple put their entire lives and souls into these jobs, and someone just comes along and snatches it away from you. It is devastating."

Divine intervention may be their only hope at this point. New Jersey's Division of Gaming Enforcement has issued final closure notices for Revel and the Showboat. The Showboat's owner, Caesars Entertainment, has already taken a charge against quarterly earnings for employee severance payments.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Aug. 22)	\$1.3617	
Dollar buys (Aug. 22)	67.344	
British pound (Aug. 22)	\$1.70	
Japanese yen (Aug. 22)	101.00	
South Korean won (Aug. 22)	997.00	

Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771	
British pound	\$1.6588/0.6029	
Canada (dollar)	1.0957	
China (Yuan)	6.1515	
Denmark (Krone)	5.6182	
Egypt (Pound)	1.1515	
Euro	\$1.3264/0.7539	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501	
Hungary (Forint)	237.19	
Israel (Shekel)	3.5277	
Japan (Yen)	103.80	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2842	
Norway (Krone)	6.1564	
Philippines (Peso)	43.88	
Poland (Zloty)	3.16	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2500	
South Korea (Won)	1,022.78	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9130	
Thailand (Baht)	31.98	
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1748	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates for currencies other than the dollar), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.22

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.775	\$3.956	\$4.119	\$4.138
Change in price	-3.3 cents	-3.1 cents	-3.4 cents	-0.5 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.792	\$5.077	\$5.003
Change in price	--	+0.4 cents	+0.4 cents	+0.4 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.926	\$4.089	\$4.108
Change in price	--	-3.1 cents	-3.4 cents	-0.8 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.065	--
Change in price	--	--	-3.4 cents	--
France	--	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.248	\$4.993
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Italy	\$4.180	--	--	\$4.256
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.799	--	\$3.819
Change in price	--	-8.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okunawa	\$3.599	--	\$3.819	--
Change in price	-4.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents	--
South Korea	\$3.599	--	\$3.939	\$3.999
Change in price	-3.0 cents	--	-4.0 cents	-0.8 cents
Guam	\$3.589	\$3.769	\$3.929	--
Change in price	-3.0 cents	-3.0 cents	-4.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Aug. 23-29

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 20, 2014

Dow Jones	59.54
Industrials	16,979.13
Nasdaq composite	-1.03
Poor's 500	4,526.48
Standard & Poor's 500	4.91
Russell 2000	-4.96
	1,157.51

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	95	72	Cir	Chatanooga	95	72	PCldy	Fort Wayne	88	70	Cir	Louisville	94	76	Cir	Pocatello	75	51	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	83	67	Rain	Cheyenne	78	56	Cir	Fresno	98	68	Cir	Lubbock	94	69	PCldy	Portland, Maine	70	57	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	71	52	Cir	Chicago	89	73	Cir	Goodland	99	69	Cir	Macon	98	72	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	72	62	Cir
Albuquerque	80	65	Cir	Cincinnati	91	73	Cir	Grand Junction	83	60	Cir	Madison	89	71	Cir	Spokane	75	55	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	79	63	Cir	Cleveland	84	67	Rain	Great Rapids	85	69	Rain	Medford	82	56	Cir	Pueblo	85	60	Cir
Amarillo	89	67	Cir	Colorado Springs	80	58	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	62	41	Rain	Memphis	97	77	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	74	53	PCldy
Anchorage	66	54	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	100	75	PCldy	Hartford	80	65	Cir	Midland-Odessa	93	73	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	75	55	Cir
Asheville	89	66	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	99	71	Rain	Harrisburg	80	65	Cir	Minneapolis	84	69	Cir	Syracuse	78	64	Cir
Atlanta	95	74	PCldy	Columbus, S.C.	100	75	PCldy	Hartford	80	65	Cir	Missoula	67	52	Rain	Tallahassee	100	76	PCldy
Atlantic City	81	66	Cir	Concord, N.H.	73	56	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Mobile	80	71	Cir	Tampa	85	69	Cir
Austin	88	70	Cir	Copius Christi	97	80	PCldy	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Montgomery	98	73	Cir	Toledo	85	69	Cir
Baltimore	81	70	Rain	Dallas-Ft. Worth	99	77	PCldy	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Nashville	96	74	PCldy	Topeka	87	77	PCldy
Baton Rouge	97	75	PCldy	Dayton	88	71	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	New Orleans	94	77	PCldy	Tulsa	88	77	Cir
Bilings	72	56	Rain	Daytona Beach	95	75	PCldy	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Peterburg	81	64	Cir	Waco	98	77	PCldy
Birmingham	97	74	Cir	Denver	84	69	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	St. Louis	97	77	Cir	Washington	83	72	Rain
Bismarck	71	60	Rain	Des Moines	90	73	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	St. Thomas	89	79	Rain	Wichita	97	77	PCldy
Boise	79	60	Cir	Detroit	84	69	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Salt Lake City	79	58	Cir	Wichita Falls	97	77	PCldy
Boston	70	62	Cir	El Paso	88	70	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	San Antonio	96	72	Cir	Wichita Falls	100	75	Cir
Bridgport	73	63	Cir	Elkins	78	63	Rain	Houston	99	77	PCldy	San Diego	80	69	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	83	64	Cir
Brownsville	96	79	PCldy	Erie	81	65	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	San Francisco	74	61	PCldy	Yonkers	87	57	Cir
Buffalo	79	64	Cir	Eugene	79	57	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Seattle	79	55	Cir	Youngstown	82	64	Rain
Burlington, Vt.	77	61	Cir	Evansville	95	75	PCldy	Houston	99	77	PCldy	Shreveport	97	75	PCldy				
Caribou, Maine	75	56	Cir	Fairbanks	69	43	PCldy	Houston	99	77	PCldy								
Charleston, S.C.	98	77	PCldy	Fargo	81	64	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy								
Charleston, W.Va.	86	69	Rain	Flagstaff	71	47	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy								
Charlotte, N.C.	95	72	Cir	Fort Smith	95	75	Cir	Houston	99	77	PCldy								

National temperature extremes

Hi: Wed. 108, Fairfairs, Texas, and Death Valley, Calif.

Lo: Wed. 34, Wyo.

National temperature extremes

Hi: Wed., 108, Fallujas, Texas, and Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 35, Daniel, Wyo.

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- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

- Vehicles being wanted to buy sight and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reliable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between a seller and a buyer of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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Tennis

Winston-Salem Open

A.U. Open Series event
Wednesday
At The Wake Forest Tennis Center
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Purse: \$687.70 (WT20)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Third Round
 Jerzy Janowicz, Poland, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, (12), France, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 David Goffin, Belgium, def. Jarkko Nieminen, (8), Spain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
 Yen-Hsun Lu, (9), Taiwan, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, (8), Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
 Andreas Seppi, (14), Italy, def. Marcel Machuco, France, 6-4, 7-6 (7).
 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, (5), Spain, def. Donald Young, (11), United States, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (6).
 Lukas Rosol, (7), Czech Republic, def. Pablo Andujar, (10), Spain, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
 Daniel Evans, (1), United States, def. Kevin Anderson, (2), South Africa, 6-4, (6), 6-4.
 John Isner, (1), United States, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, (13), Kazakhstan, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

Doubles
Quarterfinals
 Florin Mergea, Romania, and Joao Sousa, Portugal, def. Nicholas Monroe and Dominic Young, United States, 6-1, 6-12, 10-8.
 Pablo Andujar and Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Sime Groth and Chris Guccione, Australia, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Connecticut Open

A.U. Open Series event
Wednesday
At The Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Purse: \$710,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Second Round
 Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Caroline Wozniacki, (4), Denmark, 6-4, 6-2.
 Flavia Pennetta, Spain, def. Peng Shuai, (3), China, 6-3, 6-4.
 Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Andrea Giamberini, (4), Germany, 4-6, 7-5, 7-1.
 Sam Stosur, Australia, def. Eugenie Bouchard, (3), Canada, 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles
Quarterfinals
 Darija Jurak, Croatia, and Megan Moulton-Levy, United States, def. Alison Riske and Coco Vandeweghe, United States, 7-6 (4), 1-6, 10-8.
 Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Silvia Soler-Palacio, Spain, def. Casey Dellacqua, Australia, and Stefanie Vogele, Switzerland, 6-3, 2-6, 10-8.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
 MLB — Reinstated Of F. J. Pineda from the 15-day DL. Reinstated Of C. Ross from the 15-day DL. Reinstated Of A. Heston from Pawtucket. Optioned C. B. Smith and RHP Steven Wright to Pawtucket (L).

American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Activated C. David Ross from the 15-day DL. Reinstated Of A. Heston from Pawtucket. Optioned C. B. Smith and RHP Steven Wright to Pawtucket (L).

San Diego Padres — Reinstated Of C. Ross from the 15-day DL. Optioned Injured P. J. Heston to the 15-day DL. Reinstated Of J. J. Pineda from the 15-day DL.

National League

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated RHP Gerrit Cole from the 15-day DL. Optioned Injured Brent More to Indianapolis (P).

CANON PADRES — Reinstated Of C. Ross from the 15-day DL. Optioned Injured P. J. Heston to the 15-day DL. Reinstated Of J. J. Pineda from the 15-day DL.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS — Announced Charles Lee and Ben Sullivan have been added to the coaching staff.

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Pro football

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

New England	1	1	0	.500	48	5
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	49	5
South						
Houston	1	1	0	.500	32	3
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	35	3
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	44	4
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	36	4
North						
Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	60	3
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	35	3
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	35	3
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	36	6
West						
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	55	1
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	57	6
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	33	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	64	55
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	47	29
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	37	64
Philadelphia	2	0	0	1.000	63	76
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	57	42
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	53	42
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	46	36
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	24	36
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	2	0	0	1.000	54	44
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	40	34
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	24	36
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	37	27
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	60	30
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	57	37
San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	57	37
St. Louis	2	0	0	1.000	31	47

Chicago 20, Jacksonville 19
 New England, Aug. 15
 Philadelphia 35, New Orleans 31
 Tennessee 24, San Diego 17
 Oakland 27, Detroit 26
 Sunday, Aug. 16
 Green Bay 21, St. Louis 7
 Baltimore 37, Dallas 30
 N.Y. Giants 27, Indianapolis 26
 N.Y. Jets 25, Cincinnati 17
 Pittsburgh 15, Buffalo 15
 Miami 20, Tampa Bay 14
 Sunday, Aug. 17
 Denver 34, San Francisco 10
 Carolina 28, Kansas City 16
 Washington 24, Cleveland 23
 Thursday, Aug. 14
 Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
 Friday's games
 Carolina at New England
 N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets
 Jacksonville at Detroit
 Oakland at Green Bay
 World Championship
 Saturday's games
 Tampa Bay at Buffalo
 Dallas at Miami
 Tennessee at Atlanta
 Washington at Philadelphia
 Minnesota at Kansas City
 New Orleans at Indianapolis
 St. Louis at Cleveland
 Houston at Denver
 Sunday, Aug. 24
 San Diego at San Francisco
 Cincinnati at Arizona

Youth baseball

Little League World Series

At South Williamsport, Pa.

UNITED STATES
 GREAT LAKES, Chicago, 14ID-ALAN-TIC, Philadelphia; MIDWEST, Rapid City, S.D.; NEW ENGLAND, Cumberland, R.I.; NORTHWEST, Lynnwood, Wash.; SOUTH, East, Nashville, Tenn.; SOUTHWEST, Houston, Texas; West, Las Vegas, Nev.

INTERNATIONAL

ASIA-PACIFIC, South Korea; AUSTRALIA, Perth; CANADA, Vancouver; C.R. CARIBBEAN, Humacao, Puerto Rico; EUROPE & AFRICA, Czech Republic; JAPAN, Tokyo; LATIN AMERICA, Maracaibo, Venezuela; OCEANIA, Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon.

Tubbs Elimination

Sunday, Aug. 14
 Seoul 10, Brno 5
 Chicago 10, Lynnwood 2, 5 innings
 Humacao 16, Perth 3, 4 innings
 Las Vegas 12, Rapid City 1

Friday, Aug. 15

Guadalajara 4, Cumberland 4
 Philadelphia 4, Nashville 0
 Tokyo 1, Maracaibo 0
 Pearl River 6, Cumberland 4

Saturday, Aug. 16

Perth 10, Brno 5, 1st round eliminated
 Lynnwood 7, Rapid City 5, Rapid City eliminated
 Maracaibo 10, Vancouver 0, 5 innings, Vancouver eliminated
 Cumberland 8, Nashville 7, Nashville eliminated

Sunday, Aug. 17

Seoul 8, Humacao 5
 Chicago 5, Chicago 2, 4 innings
 Tokyo 8, Guadalupe 5
 Philadelphia 7, Pearl River 6

Monday, Aug. 18

Consolation: Rapid City 5, Brno 3
 Philadelphia 7, Perth 3, 1st round eliminated
 Pearl River 11, Lynnwood 4, Lynnwood eliminated
 Maracaibo 2, Humacao 1, Humacao eliminated
 Chicago 8, Cumberland 7, Cumberland eliminated

Tuesday, Aug. 19

Consolation: Nashville 12, Vancouver 9
 Guadalupe 11, Maracaibo 1, Maracaibo eliminated
 Chicago 6, Pearl River 1, Pearl River eliminated

Wednesday, Aug. 20

Seoul 4, Tokyo 2
 Las Vegas 8, Philadelphia 1
 Chicago 10, Philadelphia 1

Thursday, Aug. 21

Seoul 10, Guadalupe 5
 Game 26: Chicago vs. Philadelphia
 Game 27: Seoul vs. Tokyo

International Championship

Saturday, Aug. 23
 United States Championship
 Game 28: Las Vegas vs. winner G26
Sunday, Aug. 24
 At Lamade Stadium
 Loser G27 vs. Loser G28
 Winner G27 vs. Winner G28

Boxing

Fight schedule

Aug. 22
 At Pechanga Resort & Casino, Temecula, Calif.: Austin Trout vs. Daniel Dawson, 12 round middleweights; Erick Bono vs. Mahomd Montes, 10, welterweights.
 At Sports Center, Fairfield, Calif.: Manuel Medina vs. Sergio Farias, 10, junior featherweights.

Aug. 23
 At Tecate, Mexico: Javier Mendoza vs. Ramon Garcia Hiraltes, 12, for the vacant WBA super flyweight title.
 At Bangkok, Thailand: Randy Patacorin vs. Wisanu Kokkietum, 12, for the interim WBC junior flyweight title; Ike Yang vs. Jai Rodriguez, 12, welterweights.

Aug. 30
 At Caracas, Venezuela: Yonfre Papeo vs. Yonfre Papeo, 12, for the vacant WBA super flyweight title.
 At Las Vegas, Nev.: Roman Love vs. Ropelle Medina, 10, junior middleweights; Badou Jack vs. Jason Escalera, 10, super middleweights.

Aug. 31
 At Hermosillo, Mexico: David Sanchez vs. Amir Saad, 12, for Sanchez's interim WBA junior bantamweight title.

Sept. 4
 At Tokyo, Japan: Akira Yaegashi vs. Roman Gonzalez, 12, for Yaegashi's WBC flyweight title; Naoya Inoue vs. Samartlek Kietkiattum, 12, for Inoue's WBC junior flyweight title; Murata vs. Adrian Luna, 10, middleweights.

Sept. 5
 At Hamburg, Germany: Vladimir Klitschko vs. Kubrat Pulev, for Klitschko's IBF-WBO-IBO-WBA Super World heavyweight title.
 At Belfast, Northern Ireland: Kiko Martinez vs. Carl Frampton, 12, for Martinez's WBC super flyweight title; Eamonn O'Kane vs. Virgilus Staponulis, 12, middleweights; Jaime Conton vs. Daniel Ceballos, 10, junior bantamweights; Marc McCullough vs. Dmitry Kirilov, 10, super flyweights.

Sept. 6
 At U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati: Adrian Bronckow vs. Emmanuel Turgot, 12, welterweights; Lucas Martin Matthysse vs. Robert Ortiz, 10, junior welterweights; Robert Ortiz, 10, junior welterweights; Robert Ortiz, 10, junior welterweights; Robert Ortiz, 10, junior welterweights.

Sept. 7
 At Las Vegas, Nev.: Juan Francisco Estrada vs. Giovanni Segura, 12, for Estrada's WBA Super World and WBO flyweight titles.

Pro baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Baltimore	73	52	584		
Detroit	69	56	584		9
New York	63	61	508	9%	
Tampa Bay	61	60	494	14%	
West Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Kansas City	69	56	556		
Detroit	68	56	548		
Minnesota	66	61	512	11%	
Chicago	59	68	465	11%	
Houston	59	61	512	11%	
West Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	69	56	600		
Oakland	74	52	587	1%	
Seattle	68	57	426	2%	
Texas	67	58	489	26%	

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Washington	72	53	576		
New York	69	58	580		7
Miami	63	60	500	9%	
Philadelphia	56	71	441	17%	
West Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	69	56	559		
St. Louis	69	57	548	1%	
Pittsburgh	62	62	512		
Cincinnati	61	66	480		
Chicago	61	64	480		
West Division	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	69	56	555		
San Francisco	66	58	532		
San Diego	66	59	532		
Arizona	53	74	417	17%	
Colorado	50	79	397	20%	

Tuesday's games

Houston 7, N.Y. Yankees 4
 Detroit 8, Tampa Bay 6, 11 innings
 L.A. Angels 4, Boston 3
 Baltimore 6, Chicago White Sox 1

Wednesday, Aug. 20
 Philadelphia 7, Minnesota 5
 Atlanta 11, Pittsburgh 3
 Chicago 2, Tampa Bay 0
 L.A. Angels 4, Texas 3, 10 innings
 Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 5, 9 innings
 Milwaukee 6, Toronto 1
 St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4
 Kansas City 7, Colorado 4
 Chicago 6, N.Y. Mets 2
 L.A. Dodgers 8, San Diego 6
 Houston 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
 Wednesday's games

Thursday, Aug. 21
 Tampa Bay 0, L.A. Angels 8, Boston 3
 Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 3
 Texas 5, Miami 4
 Cleveland 9, Minnesota 5
 Seattle 3, Toronto 9
 Milwaukee 5, Toronto 9
 St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 3
 St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 3
 Colorado 5, Kansas City 2
 San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 1
 Houston 4, N.Y. Yankees 6
 Cleveland at Minnesota
 Detroit at Tampa Bay
 Chicago at Los Angeles
 Arizona at Washington
 San Francisco at Chicago Cubs
 San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

Friday's games

Baltimore (Gausman 7-4) at Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 6-9)
 Chicago White Sox (Joh.Janks 9-8) at Cleveland (Gardner 7-4)
 Houston (Peacock 3-8) at Cleveland (Gardner 7-4)
 Tampa Bay (Smoly 17-4) at Toronto (Stroman 7-4)
 Seattle (F Hernandez 13-4) at Boston (Johan 11-4)
 Kansas City (Ventura 9-9) at Texas (Lewie 8-10)
 Detroit (Ray 1-3) at Minnesota (Milone 6-4)

Saturday, Aug. 22
 Chicago (Hassan 7-3) at Oakland (Grister 12-3)
 San Francisco (Hudson 8-9) at Washington (Floyd 12-3)
 Philadelphia (Kendrick 5-11) at Philadelphia (Miner 5-11)
 Cincinnati 4-3

Pittsburgh (Locke 4-4) at Milwaukee (Heston 8-9)
 Miami (Alvarez 9-5) at Colorado (Felix 12-3)
 Chicago (Despaigne 3-4) at Arizona (Gonzalez 12-3)
 N.Y. Mets (Niese 7-8) at L.A. Dodgers (Heston 8-9)

Saturday's games

Chicago at N.Y. Yankees
 Tampa Bay at Toronto
 Detroit at Minnesota, first game
 Seattle at Boston
 Houston at Cleveland
 Los Angeles at Oakland
 Baltimore at Chicago Cubs
 Cincinnati at Washington
 St. Louis at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
 Miami at Colorado

Sunday, Aug. 23
 N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers
 Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Yankees
 Houston at Cleveland
 Tampa Bay at Toronto
 Detroit at Minnesota
 Seattle at Boston
 Houston at Cleveland
 Los Angeles at Oakland
 Baltimore at Chicago Cubs
 Cincinnati at Washington
 St. Louis at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
 Miami at Colorado

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	12	7	4	40	36
D.C. United	12	7	4	40	36
Colorado	9	8	9	30	34
Chicago	6	9	9	30	32
New York	6	7	10	28	34
San Jose	6	7	12	27	36
Philadelphia	6	9	9	27	36
New England	6	9	9	25	42
Chicago	4	6	13	25	21
Montreal	3	13	23	25	45

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	11	7	4	42	28
Real Salt Lake	11	4	9	38	32
Los Angeles	10	5	7	37	26
San Jose	6	9	7	25	42
Portland	7	7	10	31	39
Colorado	6	11	6	25	28
Chivas USA	6	11	6	24	21

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games

Los Angeles 4, Colorado 3
 Real Salt Lake at FC Dallas
 Chicago 3, San Jose 1
 Montreal at New York
 D.C. United at Chicago
 Houston at Columbus
 D.C. United at Portland
 Seattle FC at Portland
 San Jose at Philadelphia

Wednesday, Aug. 27

D.C. United at Chicago
 Houston at Sporting Kansas City
 Colorado at Seattle FC
 New England at Toronto FC
 Columbus at Montreal
 Montreal at Chicago
 Real Salt Lake at San Jose
 Portland at Dallas
 San Jose at Seattle
 New York at D.C. United
 Los Angeles at Vancouver

Thursday, Aug. 28

Los Angeles

BASKETBALL/AUTO RACING



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Dominican Republic forward Orlando Sanchez (16) defends as U.S. forward Rudy Gay protects the ball during the first half of Wednesday's exhibition game at Madison Square Garden in New York. The United States won 105-62.

Rose sits as US wins easily

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Derrick Rose heard the fans chanting his name, and yes, he would've loved to give them what they wanted.

But after missing most of the past two years and with still a long summer of basketball ahead, he's willing to take this return slowly.

"Just trying to protect myself, just knowing that this is a long, long schedule and this is the first basketball I'll be playing in two years," Rose said.

"I want to be out there, but at the same time my health is the No. 1 issue right now."

With Rose sitting out, Kyrie Irving started and made all five shots, scoring 12 points as the U.S. national basketball team beat the Dominican Republic 105-62 on Wednesday night in an exhibition game.

James Harden also scored 12 in limited playing time for the Americans, who used their subs for most of the second half. Rudy

Gay and DeMar DeRozan each scored 13 points.

Rose and U.S. assistant Tom Thibodeau, Rose's coach with the Chicago Bulls, both said he was experiencing general soreness.

Rose's absence allowed U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski to take a longer look at other players with cuts coming soon. The Americans have 16 players on the roster and have to get down to 12 before the upcoming Basketball World Cup.

Krzyzewski said there would be no cuts before Friday's game against Puerto Rico, and he said Rose would play that night.

Houston Rockets forward Francisco Garcia scored 14 points for the Dominican Republic, coached by South Florida's Orlando Antigua. The Dominicans are without their best player, the Atlanta Hawks' Al Horford, who is recovering from a torn right pectoral muscle.

The Americans leave Saturday for Spain, where they will finish their preparations with a final exhibition against Slovenia. The World Cup opens on Aug. 30.



KATHY WILLENS/AP

U.S. center Andre Drummond, rear, defends Dominican Republic center Jack Michael Martinez during the first half.

Stewart skipping 3rd race

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Tony Stewart will not race Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway, the third Sprint Cup race he's skipped since his car struck and killed Kevin Ward Jr. during a sprint car race.

Stewart's decision was announced Wednesday and Jeff Burton will once again replace him in the No. 14 Chevrolet. Burton also drove Stewart's car at Michigan last weekend.

Stewart-Haas Racing is allowing Stewart to take the time he needs away from the track, and the team statement indicated the three-time NASCAR champion is taking it week-by-week.

Stewart will not have to decide on another race until the Aug. 31 event at Atlanta.

Stewart has been in seclusion since the Aug. 9 incident at an upstate New York dirt track. He has not commented since he issued a statement the day after Ward's death.

Stewart also pulled out of the race at Watkins Glen, which began about 12 hours after his car hit Ward at the event in Canandaigua, New York. Ward's car had spun into a wall as he and Stewart raced for position, and the 20-year-old climbed out to confront Stewart.

Authorities said the first car to pass Ward had to swerve to miss hitting the driver, who was gesturing toward the NASCAR star. The front of Stewart's car then appeared to clear Ward, but Ward was struck by the right rear tire and hurtled through the air.

Ward died of blunt force trauma, and authorities are still investigating the incident. Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero has said investigators did not have any evidence to support criminal intent by Stewart, but the investigation is expected to last at least another week. Povero said this week there were no new updates.

None of Stewart's peers has spoken to the driver since the accident. But they've come to his defense, with six-time champion Jimmie Johnson saying nothing he's seen has convinced him that Ward's death was anything but a tragic accident.

Stewart has 48 career Cup wins in 542 starts. He has one career win at Bristol, in 2011.

Burton made just his third start of the season last week. The 21-time Sprint Cup winner won at Bristol in 2008 and has 15 top-10 finishes in 40 career starts.



Stewart

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AUTO RACING



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Carl Edwards answers a question during a news conference at Joe Gibbs Racing's headquarters in Huntersville, N.C., on Tuesday. Joe Gibbs Racing has hired Carl Edwards to drive a new fourth Sprint Cup car in 2015.

'No excuses' now for JGR

Team is banking on Edwards to close gap on Hendrick

By JIM UTTER
The Charlotte Observer

NHUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — No excuses. That's what Joe Gibbs Racing officials believe is left after the organization's announcement Tuesday that it would add a fourth Sprint Cup Series car in 2015 with driver Carl Edwards and a significant investment from communications technology company Arris, a new sponsor to NASCAR.

"We don't have any excuses why we can't compete with the likes of Hendrick" Motorsports, said JGR team President J.D. Gibbs.

"Financially, we should be in good shape there. I feel like with everything we have now, we're right there."

Edwards, who will finish the season at Roush Fenway Racing, will drive the No. 19 Toyota for JGR beginning next season, joining teammates Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Matt Kenseth.

Kenseth also moved to JGR after a long tenure at Roush. In his first season at JGR in 2013, he finished second in the championship standings and won a season-high seven races.

"Matt's success over here was a real eye-opener for me," said Edwards, who owns 23 Cup Series wins but has never won a series championship. "There's no bad blood or anything like that at Roush."

"I just feel that there are so many parts that come together here really well. There is a lot of energy here. You got JGR ready to start a fourth team. You got drivers like Matt, Kyle and Denny that are veterans and really good."

"The whole situation just feels really good to me. It looks like it will be a lot of fun to go racing." JGR has not finalized what Ed-



BOB BROOBECK/AP

Greg Biffle, left, talks with Carl Edwards after practice last week for the Sprint Cup Series race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich.

wards' team will look like, but a significant number of the members likely are to come from its Nationwide program.

JGR has fielded three full-time Cup teams since 2005 and has held off expanding to the maximum of four entries, preferring to make the move when it could put together the best deal possible.

"This is as close as you can get to having all the right pieces," Gibbs said. Edwards' move was not a surprise as it had been rumored for months. Roush officials announced last month Edwards would not return to its organization in 2015, but at the time Edwards declined to talk about his plans.

The size and scope of the investment of JGR's new partner, Arris, make it one of the biggest sponsor additions in recent years in NASCAR.

Not only will Arris sponsor approximately half the Cup season with Edwards, it also will sponsor driver Daniel Suarez next season

as he moves full time to JGR's No. 18 Nationwide Series team.

"Having this opportunity to run full time in the Nationwide Series with Joe Gibbs Racing is a dream come true," said Suarez, who has four wins in the Mexico series this season.

In addition, Arris will sponsor a handful of Truck series races for Suarez, a rising star in the Toyota Mexico Series, and partner in a diversity initiative with Escuderia Telmex to develop Mexican and Latin American drivers in NASCAR.

"We felt like we needed to get our name out there," said Bob Stanzione, chairman and CEO of Arris. "We're one of the largest companies in the world that provides high-speed data voice and video communications to service providers around the world."

"Speed, speed, speed is very important to us. NASCAR is about speed and Joe Gibbs and his team is about speed and high quality, high reliability, high integrity — the values we prize the most."

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP SERIES

This week: Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol, Tenn.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).
Race distance: 500 laps, 266.5 miles.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the fifth of his seven 2014 victories.

Last week: Jeff Gordon won from the pole position at Michigan for his third victory of the year. Kevin Harvick was second and Joey Logano finished in third.

Next race: Oral-B USA 500, Aug. 31, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Georgia.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon.....	816
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	813
3. Brad Keselowski.....	733
4. Joey Logano.....	714
5. Matt Kenseth.....	709
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17. Paul Menard.....	614
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19. Jamie McMurray.....	596
20. Denny Hamlin.....	589

Driver to watch

Ryan Newman's dustup with Jimmie Johnson in the closing laps at Michigan on Sunday reflects the mad scramble of a man who is fighting to get in the Chase.

Although he is 14th in the adjusted standings for the Chase with three races left before the field of 16 is set, Newman is winless. That puts him in a precarious position to miss the cut. Hence, the aggressiveness in the final laps and a little bit of "trading paint" as Johnson and Newman scrambled for position.

Typical of Newman, he's been good but not great this season, with two Top 5s (third at Kentucky and fifth at New Hampshire) and eight Top 10s. He missed his best shot at winning at Phoenix, where he was battling Kyle Busch for the lead until a late caution negated their advantage over the rest of the pack and he finished seventh.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Food City 300 at Bristol, Tenn.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).
Distance: 200 laps, 133.25 miles.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5 p.m. Saturday CET; Midnight Sunday JKT.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the ninth of his 12 2013 victories.

Last week: Chris Buescher won the road-course race at Mid-Ohio for his first series victory.

Next race: Great Clips 300, Aug. 30, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Ga.

Online: nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: U.S. Nationals, Aug. 27-Sept. 1, Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis, Clermont, Indiana.

Last week: Morgan Lucas won the Top Fuel final in Brainerd, Minn., beating Doug Kalitta. The Funny Car final between John Force and Ron Capps and the Pro Stock semifinals and final were postponed by darkness after rain delays. They will be run at the U.S. Nationals.

Online: www.nhra.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Sonoma at Sonoma, Calif.

Track: Sonoma Raceway (road course, 2.385 miles).
Distance: 202.73 miles, 85 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 9 a.m. Monday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday, JKT.

Last year: Power won at the track for the third time in four years.

Last week: Power won at the Milwaukee Mile for his third win of the year.

Next race: MAVTV 500, Aug. 30, Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, Calif.

Online: indycar.com

OTHER RACES

TUDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP: Oak Tree Grand Prix at Virginia International Raceway, Danville, Va. **TV:** AFN-Xtra, delayed, 6 a.m. Monday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday, JKT.

Online: imsa.com

ARCA RACING SERIES: Herta's Live with Flavor 200, Madison International Speedway, Oregon, Wis.

Online: arcaracing.com

— The Associated Press

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Edwards poised to dominate every down

Florida State DL has had flashes, now he wants consistent effort

By KAREEM COPELAND

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The way Mario Edwards Jr. moves on a football field seems to conflict with the basic principles of physics. The 6-foot-3 Florida State defensive lineman weighs 300 pounds, is very nimble and truly light on his feet.

The 20-year-old can do standing backflips wearing 20-plus pounds of pads.

With his size and athletic ability, he worked to become the No. 1 overall recruit in the nation and a third team All-ACC selection as a sophomore, but something has been missing: Every-down domination.

Edwards will play every position along the line, sometimes standing up on the outside and even dropping into pass coverage.

"I just took this year serious," Edwards said. "I feel good. I'm more explosive and I'm strong."

"This year, they really want to do mismatches with me. The worst player on the line, that's who they'll put me against."

Bucky Brooks, NFL Media analyst and former scout for the Seattle Seahawks and Carolina Panthers, said it's important for players like Edwards to show that they can be consistently dominant.

"The guys that are blue chipers, the guys who go on to have multiple Pro Bowls, guys who are impact players that change franchises have that ability," Brooks said. "I need to see Mario Edwards Jr. show people that he wants to be a dominant player by putting it on tape, doing it against everybody, small competition, big competition, whatever. Really dominating the guy that's across from him."

Edwards has shown flashes of domination in his first two years.

The best game of his career was a six-tackle, including three for loss, one-sack effort in the national championship game. He showcased his athleticism in the first quarter, firing through the offensive line, chasing Auburn quarterback Nick Marshall out of the pocket and then doubling-back to get the sack. He got to Marshall again in the fourth quarter, running down the quarterback while isolated one-on-one on a read-option.

Coaches recently stopped the tape during a film session to show Edwards chasing down speedy back Mario Pender from the opposite side of the field.

Edwards has regularly weighed around 300 pounds but reshaped his body during the offseason. He firmed up and can run with players 100 pounds lighter. He squats 600 pounds and bench presses 450.

Florida State has GPS equipment to track speed and Edwards' has improved from 17.5 miles per hour last season to 18.8.

The new goal is to increase the sack numbers. Edwards only has five in 23 games, but part of that had to do with his responsibilities within the scheme. Edwards didn't regularly have the go-get-the-quarterback green light. Edwards also acknowledged there were lapses in effort and he hadn't mastered the playbook. He believes six or seven sacks were left on the field.

Edwards wants double-digit sacks in 2014.

Though Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher said sacks aren't the only indicator of Edwards' impact.

"Sacks don't equate to greatness," Fisher said. "You watch that film, that guy's a heck of a



STEVE CANNON/AP

Florida State's Mario Edwards tackles Nevada's Brandon Wimberly in a game last September. Edwards is everything a coach wants in a defensive lineman — a rare combination of power and agility.

football player. You watch when the draft comes around, where he's at. ... He didn't get sacks, but we had the lowest scoring defense in the country last year.

"That guy there is as athletic and as dominant as any of the ends we've had. ... He's as strong physically and naturally as powerful as anybody I've been around."

Fisher has seen his share of NFL-caliber linemen.

The Seminoles had four defensive linemen drafted in the 2013 NFL Draft, including Bjorn Werner (No. 24 overall) and Cor-

nellus Carradine (No. 40). FSU defensive tackle Timmy Jernigan was the No. 48 pick in 2014.

"As far as guys that can dance around like that," Brooks said, "guys that are athletic, guys that can play upright off the ground, has the ability to move and do some things that you want to see in these exotic schemes where you can put your D-line on the move ... he can do all those things."

Now, the goal is to do it consistently.

Defensive coordinator Charles Kelly said the two have had ex-

tensive conversations on the subject. Everyone knows that's the last piece of the puzzle for someone unnaturally blessed with that type of natural strength and fluidity.

Edwards reminisced about intimidating opponents before high school games when he would finish pregame stretches with a backflip and watch the jaws drop open.

Fisher wants to see similar reactions on a consistent basis from Edwards' opponents — but at the end of four quarters.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tide's Cooper out for big rebound

Wide receiver aims for better start after injuries curtailed role on team last season

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Amari Cooper isn't ready to declare his Alabama career a success just yet.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide star is one of the nation's top wide receivers and a highly regarded NFL prospect, but he's also coming off a season when nagging injuries, frequent double teams and inconsistency contributed to a rough start.

So motivation isn't a problem. "I don't know if I've had a lot of success," Cooper said. "I don't look at it like I've had a lot of success. I'm always anxious to do more. Break records."

Teammates and coaches have praised his focus and work ethic leading up to the Aug. 30 opener against West Virginia in Atlanta, and Cooper was the leading vote getter on the media's preseason All-Southeastern Conference team.

While it remains unclear who will be throwing passes for Alabama, Jacob Coker or Blake Sims, Cooper seems a safe bet to be catching many of them.

He's the headliner of a deep receiving corps that also includes players like Christian Jones and DeAndrew White, plus tight end O.J. Howard. Cooper got excited when he looked at numbers produced by some of new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin's receivers at Southern California like Margise Lee and Robert Woods.

Kiffin's early impression of Cooper, meanwhile, wasn't about the 6-foot-1, 210-pounder's talent but his work ethic during offsea-

By the numbers

59

Number of receptions Cooper made as a freshman in the 2012-13 season.

11

Number of touchdown receptions Cooper made in the 2012 season, a school record.

45

Number of catches Coopoer made last season after being slowed by foot and toe injuries.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

son workouts.

"I thought it was a really hard workout we were doing but he worked out two hours before that," he said. "What you realize about Amari is there really isn't any off-field stuff. Amari is completely dedicated to being the



DAVE MARTIN/AP

Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper, left, is hoping to shake off nagging injuries and inconsistencies that hurt his start last season and prove himself to be a top NFL prospect.

best football player that he can. He's completely focused so he's great to work with. He wants to be great and he also wants to expand his game."

Statistically, Cooper took a step backward last season, especially early. Plagued by foot and toe injuries that sidelined him against Colorado State, he was largely a nonfactor in the Tide's first five games before totaling 15 catches and 299 yards in the final two, including a 99-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter against Auburn.

His 45 catches, 736 yards and four touchdowns represented a drop-off. Cooper had broken Julio Jones' Alabama freshman records with 59 catches for 1,000

yards and set a school mark with 11 touchdown receptions.

Cooper also had some drops, and he said he's gotten better at mentally bouncing back from such mistakes.

"It gets under my skin less now than it did before," Cooper said. "Drops are a part of football too. You just have to play the next play but you have to practice like you want to be perfect. But once you drop that ball, just play the next ball. You'll be all right."

Alabama defensive backs who face Cooper routinely in practice praise his explosiveness and quickness.

Jarrick Williams calls him "amazing" and offers some not

so helpful advice to opposing cornerbacks.

"You've really got to try to get your hands on him to try to affect him," Williams said, "but that pretty much doesn't do anything anyway."

Landon Collins calls Cooper one of the Tide's hardest workers and said he usually finishes first or second in runs.

"His mind-set is to be the best player he can be, be that top-notch receiver, catch every ball and try to score," Collins said. "That's his mind-set. If it's in the air, he's going to get it. He won't let any ball that's within reach get away from him. That's what I love about Cooper. He makes all of us a better player."

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MLB/NFL

Rare win for Giants:
MLB upholds protest

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The San Francisco Giants on Wednesday became the first team since 1986 to win a protest filed with Major League Baseball, and will now get to resume a rain-shortened game the Chicago Cubs thought they had won.

MLB executive Joe Torre ruled on Tuesday night's game at Wrigley Field that was called after 4½ innings. The Cubs were declared the winners by a 2-0 score.

Now, it is instead a suspended game that was to resume Thursday afternoon with the Cubs batting in the bottom of the fifth. The playoff-contending Giants and Chicago have a regularly scheduled game set to begin later Thursday night.

"I thought we had a strong case," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "I'm just thankful and grateful that they [MLB] were open minded."

"They listened and they looked at it and I think it's the fair thing to do."

A short rainstorm caused a delay of more than 4½ hours Tuesday after the grounds crew couldn't put the tarp down quickly. The umpires said the field was unplayable and called it at 1:16 a.m.

MLB ruled that the tarp had not been properly put away after its previous use. Therefore, under provisions of Official Baseball Rule 4.12 (a) (3) there a "malfunction of a mechanical field device under control of the home club."

Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer called it a "just" decision. "The last thing you want is a playoff team feeling bitter about the result here," Hoyer said. "And obviously it was caused by our organization. It's a good outcome."

"Hopefully we win the game. We have a 2-0 lead and pick it up

from there," he said.

Hoyer said the Cubs had hoped all along to play a complete game on Tuesday night, and that the Wrigley Field grounds crew and the umpires were caught off-guard by a "weird weather pattern" and a lack of advance warning of the localized downpour.

That resulted in the field "wetter than usual," according to Hoyer, who added there was no rain at his house, located 12 blocks away from Wrigley Field.

"I really have to compliment the Cubs," he said. "They were all for this, too. They wanted to do the right thing."

Giants President Larry Baer said in a statement: "We appreciate Major League Baseball's careful review of our protest that will allow last night's game to be continued tomorrow."

"We want to thank Commissioner Bud Selig, Commissioner-elect Rob Manfred, Executive Vice President for Baseball Operations Joe Torre and the Chicago Cubs organization for their cooperation throughout this process," he said.

The last time a team won a protest filed with MLB was June 16, 1986, when St. Louis played at Pittsburgh. There were two rain delays at Three Rivers Stadium, and the Pirates correctly contended those didn't meet the National League's 30-minute threshold for cancellation.

MLB said in its statement that after watching video of the trouble at Wrigley Field and talking to Cubs representatives, "the Cubs' inability to deploy the tarp appropriately was caused by the failure to properly wrap and spool the tarp after its last use."

"As a result, the grounds keeping crew was unable to properly deploy the tarp after the rain worsened," MLB said.



JEFF HAYNES/AP

A member of the grounds crew works on the field after a heavy rain soaked Wrigley Field during the fifth inning of the game between the San Francisco Giants and the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday.



SCOTT KANE/AP

Green Bay Packers linebacker Jayrone Elliott, left, knocks the ball out of the hand of St. Louis Rams quarterback Austin Davis during the fourth quarter of Saturday's NFL preseason game in St. Louis. Davis recovered the ball, but Elliott helped the Packers win 21-7.

Matthews, Packers D learn
Elliott's name after big day

By GENARO C. ARMAZ

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis.

Jayrone Elliott doesn't just go by "No. 91" anymore in the Packers' locker room. Three sacks in four plays will help get you noticed, even by pass-rushing specialist Clay Matthews.

Elliott's dream series came in a rather meaningless fourth quarter of a 21-7 preseason win over St. Louis. But maybe, just maybe, the sequence can earn the undrafted rookie more snaps in his long-shot effort to work his way into the crowded outside linebacker rotation.

"It was just crazy, because usually you walk around and they'd be like 'What up 91?'" Elliott said Monday. "Then they started calling me by name and calling me 'Sackmaster'."

"So, it's just fun to joke around with Clay (and Julius Peppers), because you know Peppers never really talks to anybody," Elliott added with a smile.

Elliott's nice day was overshadowed by the stellar preseason debut of quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who had the up-tempo offense humming along in midseason form. Elliott, who went to Toledo, is taking the ribbing from his feel-good performance in stride. "I heard he's starting this week-end in front of me," Matthews joked after practice Monday.

Not even close. And forget the other side, too, where Peppers is starting.

"We give him a hard time with the amount of success that he has this past week," Matthews said. "I'll be rooting for him."

If anything, Elliott's success

'It was just a bunch of people telling me, 'Congratulations, good to finally see you there. Just a bunch of family members going crazy thinking I'm freaking Clay Matthews.'

Jayrone Elliott

Green Bay Packers linebacker



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draws attention to the Packers' depth at outside linebacker. Start with Matthews, back after missing much of last season with a thumb injury that also limited him in minicamp.

Each week gives Matthews more confidence in using his surgically repaired hand.

"I feel good about it. I think by the time season the rolls around, I'll be flying out there and making plays and having fun," Matthews said. "That's what I'm doing now, but just a little more crisp."

The Packers signed Peppers as a free agent to punch up the pass rush. Converted ends Mike Neal and Nick Perry both appear to be healthy again in camp. Andy Mumbie and Nate Palmer got valuable experience last year after

injuries to Matthews and Perry, and the Packers also drafted Carl Bradford in the fourth round out of Arizona State.

There might be some tough decisions coming when the roster gets cut.

"Not just the outside linebacker position, but a lot of positions we have to continue to try to work a lot of different combinations," coach Mike McCarthy said. "At the end of the day, special teams will be a huge factor in those decisions."

All of which makes this weekend's game against Oakland, the Packers' third of the preseason, all the more important for Elliott and other young players such as receiver Jeff Janis. After missing the first week of practices with shingles, Janis has had an impressive camp, including a 34-yard TD last week against the Rams.

Janis might have a better shot at making the roster than Elliott, who in turn realizes he still has a lot of work to do. He's not letting all those well-wishing text messages he received after the game make him overconfident.

"It was just a bunch of people telling me, 'Congratulations, good to finally see you there,'" Elliott recounted. "Just a bunch of family members going crazy thinking I'm freaking Clay Matthews."

NFL



Blount

Bell

Steelers face pot charges

By WILL GRAVES

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers running backs Le'Veon Bell and LeGarrette Blount will be charged with marijuana possession following a traffic stop Wednesday.

Ross Township detective Brian Kohlhepp said traffic officer Sean Stafiej pulled over a car operated by Bell around 1:30 p.m. after Stafiej, who was on a motorcycle, noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

Stafiej found a 20-gram bag of marijuana inside the car. Bell, Blount and a female passenger all claimed ownership of the marijuana according to police.

Bell was taken to a hospital to have blood drawn and is expected to be charged with driving under the influence of marijuana.

Bell, Blount and the female passenger were arrested and released. All three are expected to receive notice of formal charges through the mail said Kohlhepp. The possession and DUI charges are both misdemeanors.

The Steelers were to play a preseason game in Philadelphia on Thursday. Bell, 22, and the 27-year-old Blount, signed as a free agent in the offseason, were expected to see significant playing time in the main tuneup for starters before Pittsburgh's Sept. 7 opener against Cleveland.

"We are aware of the reports and still gathering information," Steelers spokesman Burt Lauten said. "We will have no further comment at this time."

Bell set a franchise record for total yards for a rookie back last season, smashing the mark set by Hall of Famer Franco Harris.

The second-round pick out of Michigan State ran for 860 yards and eight touchdowns and caught 45 passes for 399 yards despite missing the first three games of the season with a foot injury.

Hazy: No hard numbers on how many players use drug

FROM BACK PAGE

A Gallup poll last year found 58 percent of Americans believe marijuana should be legalized. That's already happened in Colorado and Washington — the states that are the home of last season's Super Bowl teams.

The World Anti-Doping Agency has said it does not need to catch out-of-competition marijuana users. At least one high-profile coach, Pete Carroll of the champion Seahawks, publicly said he'd like to see the NFL study whether marijuana can help players.

There are no hard numbers on how many NFL players are using marijuana, but anecdotal evidence, including the arrest or league discipline of no fewer than a dozen players for pot over the past 18 months, suggests use is becoming more common.

Redskins safety Ryan Clark didn't want to pinpoint the number of current NFL players who smoke pot but said, "I know a lot of guys who don't regularly smoke marijuana who would use it during the season."

Washington wouldn't put a specific number on it but said he, too, knew his share of players who weren't shy about lighting up when he was in the league, including one guy "who just hated the pain pills they were giving out at the time." Another longtime defensive lineman, Marcellus Wiley, estimates half the players in the average NFL locker room were using it by the time he shut down his career in 2006.

"They are leaning on it to cope with the pain," said Wiley, who played defensive line in the league for 10 seasons. "They are leaning on it to cope with the anxiety of the game."

The NFL is fighting lawsuits

Redskins safety Ryan Clark, below, didn't want to pinpoint the number of current NFL players who smoke pot but said, "I know a lot of guys who don't regularly smoke marijuana who would use it during the season."



THE SYNOPSIS

At issue

The NFL is facing a drug dilemma — how to allow its players to use marijuana as a pain reliever without condoning recreational use.

More say its OK

According to a Gallup poll last year, 58 percent of Americans believe marijuana should be legalized. That's already the case in Colorado and Washington — the homes of last season's Super Bowl teams. The uptick in pot suspensions certainly suggests that more NFL players are using the drug, too.

Possible upside

The league is fighting lawsuits over concussions and painkillers, and some argue both issues could be alleviated with a more permissive marijuana policy.

What they've said

Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll has said he'd like to see the NFL study whether marijuana can help players. Commissioner Roger Goodell has been cautious in his comments. Before last season's Super Bowl, Goodell said the league would "follow the medicine" and not rule out allowing players to use marijuana for medical purposes.

Will it really help?

The science, however, is slow-moving and expensive and might not ever be conclusive, says behavioral psychologist Ryan Vandrey, who studies marijuana use at Johns Hopkins. Marijuana may work better for some people, while narcotics and other painkillers might be better for others.

A billboard calling on the NFL to stop punishing players for using marijuana is shown in front of Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver last year. Attitudes toward the drug have softened around the nation, and many would like to see the league follow suit.

ED ANDRIENSKI/AP

on two fronts — concussions and painkillers — both of which, some argue, could be positively influenced if marijuana were better tolerated by the league.

The science, however, is slow-moving and expensive and might not ever be conclusive, says behavioral psychologist Ryan Vandrey, who studies marijuana use at Johns Hopkins. Marijuana may work better for some people, while narcotics and other painkillers might be better for others.

"Different medicines work differently from person to person," Vandrey said. "There's pretty good science that shows marijuana does have pain-relieving properties. Whether it's a better pain reliever than the other things available has never been evaluated."

Washington, who is part of the concussion lawsuit, is working with a bio-pharmaceutical and phyto-medical company called Kannalife Sciences that recently received licensing from the National Institutes of Health to develop a drug to treat concussions using derivatives from medical marijuana. Co-founder Thoma Kikis, who has been working on cannabis-based solutions to concussions for a few years, said he approached the NFL about signing on to the research.

"They didn't want to meet, didn't want to take a position to create any kind of controversy," Kikis said. "I understand that. But ultimately, they're going to have to make a decision and look into different research."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has treaded gingerly around the subject. Before last season's Super Bowl he said the league would "follow the medicine" and not rule out allowing

players to use marijuana for medical purposes. An NFL spokesman reiterated that this month, saying if medical advisers inform the league it should consider modifying the policy, it would explore possible changes.

A spokesman for the players union declined comment on marijuana, beyond saying the union is always looking for ways to improve the drug-testing policy. Earlier this year, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said the marijuana policy is secondary when set against the failure to bring Human Growth Hormone testing into the game. Some believe relaxing marijuana rules could be linked to a deal that would bring in HGH testing.

"I've heard that in conversations," said Wiley, a plaintiff in the painkiller lawsuit. "And I think it's despicable that you'd pit them against each other."

The NFL drug policy has come under even more scrutiny this summer, after the NFL handed down a season-long suspension of Browns receiver Josh Gordon for multiple violations of the NFL substance-abuse policy. That suspension, when juxtaposed against the two-game ban Ray Rice received for domestic violence, has led some to say the league's priorities are out of whack.

In June, Harvard Medical School professor emeritus Lester Grinspoon, a forerunner of marijuana research, published an open letter to Goodell, urging him to drop urine testing for weed and, more importantly, fund a crash research project on marijuana. "In June, Harvard Medical School professor emeritus Lester Grinspoon, a forerunner of marijuana research, published an open letter to Goodell, urging him to drop urine testing for weed and, more importantly, fund a crash research project on marijuana."

"As much as I love to watch professional football, I'm beginning to feel like a Roman in the days when they would send Christians to the lions," Grinspoon said. "I don't want to be part of an audience that sees kids ruin their future with this game, and then the league doesn't give them any recourse to try to protect themselves."

The league does fund sports-health research at the NIH, the tune of a \$30 million donation in 2012. But the science moves slowly no matter where it's conducted and, as Vandrey says, "the NFL is in business for playing football, not doing scientific research."

Meanwhile, marijuana becomes more and more acceptable across America. Even with the Super Bowl being dubbed "The Stoner Bowl" and the issue hanging heavily over the NFL's marquee event, the league has shown no signs of quick movement.

The league's threshold for a positive test remains 10 times lower than that of WADA, which changed its limit last year in a nod to the reality that the drug is not a performance enhancer.

The NFL's conundrum is figuring a graceful way to keep athletes who use marijuana recklessly — or recreationally — while giving others a legitimate form of pain relief.

"I'd like to see us advance the subject to where we're all mature and we get it," Wiley said, "and we let players make the decision for themselves."

NFL

Cutler: Holmes can be good fit

The Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears have sorted through numerous candidates to find a suitable replacement for injured third wide receiver Marquess Wilson the past three weeks.

So quarterback Jay Cutler sees nothing wrong with giving a chance to a player with a so-so past.

When the Bears signed former Jets and Steelers receiver Santonio Holmes Saturday to vie for an opening caused by Wilson's broken collarbone, it took only a short time before Cutler and Holmes were working together on the offense.

"You know, Santonio was here, probably had signed his contract and 60 minutes later he was on the field with Jay, and throwing routes," Bears offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer said.

Cutler has gotten a good look the past two days in practice at Holmes and anticipates Holmes making an impact in a competition with former veteran Josh Morgan.

"It looks good," Cutler said. "He's explosive. He'd probably try to be honest — he's a little bit rusty. He's been out of football."

"But getting in and out of cuts, catches the ball well, extremely explosive, fast. He's exciting. We've just got to get him caught up with everything right now. It's hard coming in where we are offensively and just kind of throwing him into the mix."

It's possible Holmes will play Friday at Seattle in the third preseason game. But the first chance at the spot Friday will go to Morgan, a former Washington Redskins and San Francisco 49er.

"He's had two good weeks of practice, two good games, productive games," coach Marc Trestman said of Morgan. "He's made plays out there."

"I think he deserves a chance to step up now and get the first opportunity to do that."

The 30-year-old Holmes had 23 catches last year, the second-lowest total of his career, while battling a hamstring injury. The Jets cut him to save \$8.25 million



Preseason
Chicago at Seattle
Joined in progress
AFN-Sports
5 a.m. Saturday CET
Noon Saturday JKT

against the salary cap. He had suffered a career-threatening foot injury in 2012, but says he is over the injuries.

Questions still linger about a dispute he had with former Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, and an argument he got into with tackle Wayne Hunter that led to his benching in a 2011 Jets game. "That's in the past," Holmes said. "It's neither here nor there right now. I think being in this new organization is a new move for me and a great opportunity for me to take advantage of and be part of a great organization."

Wide receiver Brandon Marshall is the Bears receiver leader, and in the past a controversial figure himself.

"We came in together," Holmes said about Marshall. "He's a great guy, first and foremost. He's a Pro Bowler and he leads by example."

Trestman thinks Holmes is a good fit regardless of his past.

"I mean, people change, they get into new venues, new environments," Trestman said. "You're out for a while, you get a hard look at where you are. Not only in your work life as well as in other aspects of your life."

"We feel he's coming here in a good place, he's coming into a great locker room. Guys have reached out to him and are willing to help him and give him an opportunity to help our football team, but it will be a process and it will be day to day. But it's off to a good start and we'll see where it takes us."



ANDREW NELLES/AP

Bears quarterback Jay Cutler, above, is working with receiver Santonio Holmes to try to get him caught up with the offense. Holmes and Josh Morgan are competing to replace third receiver Marquess Wilson, who broke his collarbone.



ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

Saints running back Mark Ingram, left, carries as Titans free safety George Wilson tries to tackle him during the first half of Friday's preseason game in New Orleans.

Renewed confidence

Saints' Ingram starting strong

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — New Orleans Saints running back Mark Ingram isn't letting a humbling start to his pro career lower his opinion of what he can still accomplish in the NFL.

With 1,605 yards from scrimmage and 11 touchdowns in his first three pro seasons, Alabama's first Heisman Trophy winner is now a widely perceived underachiever in the NFL.

Still, Ingram said this week that he sees in himself the potential to be one of the most productive and dynamic running backs in NFL history.

"If somebody's out here playing the game and they don't want to be the best ever to play the game, I don't think they're doing the right thing," Ingram said. "I would've said it as a rookie. I would've said it 10 years ago. I'll say it 10 years from now."

While the preseason doesn't always offer a true reflection of a player's growth, Ingram's performance through a pair of exhibition games seems to back up his assertion that he is increasingly

comfortable with what it takes to succeed as an NFL running back — from reading defenses to setting up blocks to pass-blocking.

He even appears more involved in the passing game, turning a short catch into a 23-yard touchdown in last Friday night's 31-24 preseason victory over Tennessee.

"In high school I played receiver. If you look at my recruiting (bio), it says, 'Athlete,'" Ingram noted. "In college, I caught a lot of passes."

Indeed, many believe he won over 2009 Heisman voters with his 69-yard gain on a screen pass in Alabama's 2009 SEC Championship game victory over Florida.

Ingram has only 24 career receptions for 143 yards and no touchdowns in the NFL, but catching the ball is in his genes. His father, Mark Ingram Sr., played wide receiver in the NFL for 10 seasons, mostly with the New York Giants.

"Running routes and catching footballs was one of the first things I did when I was young. So I'm comfortable catching passes, comfortable running routes," Ingram said. "I haven't had a lot of



Preseason
New Orleans at Indianapolis
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2 a.m. Sunday CET
9 a.m. Sunday JKT

opportunity to do that here. But I think I can be just as good as anybody else."

Ingram had high hopes heading into last season, only to struggle behind a new zone blocking scheme before sitting out several games with a toe injury. However, he was among the Saints' most effective running back late last season, rushing for 146 yards in two playoff games.

While Ingram rushed for only 386 yards last season, he also finished with an average of nearly 5 yards per carry. Through two preseason games, he's carried 13 times for 102 — an average of 7.8 yards per carry — and had a 22-yard scoring run.

"I know I'm an all-purpose back, a complete back," he added. "I can do everything."

NFL



JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri celebrates after kicking the extra point that gave the Colts their one-point margin of victory over the Chiefs in an AFC wild-card playoff on Jan. 4.

PAT experiment results in more failed attempts

Kickers' opinions vary on conversion from 15-yard line

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Reviews have been mixed around the league for the NFL's experiment with longer kicks on extra points.

Regardless, it appears there's a future for them. Eight kicks from the longer distance — usually 33 yards — were missed during the first two weeks of the preseason. The 94.3 percent success rate (133-for-141) was below the regular-season rate (99.6 percent) from 2013 when the ball was snapped from the 2-yard line instead of the 15.

Only five of 1,267 short kicks were missed in 2013.

All of this summer's misses came with the ball snapped from the 15. Snaps will move back to the 2 this week and for the regular season.

NFL officiating director Dean Blandino says he believes longer PAT kicks are "in the league's near future." The results this preseason will be brought to the competition committee, and a proposal for change almost certainly will be presented to team owners at next March's annual meetings.

Blandino isn't sure the 15-yard line will be the focal point of any change.

As with any alterations to the game, coaches and players offered a variety of viewpoints.

San Francisco's veteran placekicker Phil Dawson didn't get a chance to try a long extra point because the 49ers didn't score any touchdowns in their first two exhibition games. He sees the positive and negative sides of a longer kick.

"It could rear its head in a game where the kicker hasn't been on the field in a while," Dawson said.

"It's hard to stay loose and then all of a sudden there's a sudden score, maybe a fumble recovery, kickoff return, interception return. You might not be super loose yet. It's one thing to go out there and pop through a 20-yarder. You back up (another) 13-15 yards and you're a little stiff, you could possibly run into some problems there."

On the other foot ...

"Any rule change that's designed to highlight what guys do well, I'm all for it," Dawson added. "If that rule change is motivated by, 'Man, our kickers are really good and we want to showcase what they do well,' I'm all for it."

Jets kicker Nick Folk, who has never missed an extra point in his seven-year career, believes longer tries make the more accurate kickers even more valuable. But "I think most kickers want to keep it the same as it's been."

Indianapolis' Adam Vinatieri, who's won four Super Bowls as one of the NFL's best clutch kickers, made all three of his PATs this summer. He thinks weather can be a factor "when conditions get crumrier" and thinks longer kicks might lead to more 2-point attempts.

"I think it could impact the outcome of games and you may see more teams go for 2 in those situations because they won't want to try (essentially) a 33-yard field goal," Vinatieri said.

There are other, more drastic options that might excite the fans if not the coaches and kickers. Perhaps eliminating the kick altogether and requiring teams to go for a conversion with a play.

AP Pro Football Writers Arnie Stapleton and Rob Maaddi, and Sports Writers Janie McCauley, Michael Marot and Tom Canavan contributed to this story.

Redskins' Griffin still struggling to master the slide

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New coach, same old story for Robert Griffin III: He can't seem to avoid getting clobbered.

The debate that was so prevalent under Mike Shanahan remains under Jay Gruden, even though Gruden is trying to mold Griffin into less of a runner and more of a pocket passer.

RG3, who has had major knee surgery in both college and in the NFL, didn't have any designed runs in the Washington Redskins' 24-23 win over the Cleveland Browns on Monday night, but he scrambled four times for 24 yards and usually failed to seek safe ground.

Even when he did try to slide, it looked awkward — a craft he's far from mastering.

Griffin and Gruden addressed the physical punishment immediately after the game, but it remained on Griffin's mind enough for him to take to Twitter as well, telling his followers: "Just want y'all to know

I will keep working on getting down" and not take the big hits.

Gruden's words, meanwhile, could have easily been Shanahan's at any point during Griffin's first two seasons.

"It's something we have to continue to talk to him about — how important he is to this team and this franchise," Gruden said. "When he gets out of the pocket, he needs to protect himself. He's had a habit in his career of being able to get himself out of those predicaments with his speed and his athleticism. But here it's a 16-game season, with the great talent across the league in the NFL, (and) he's got to pick his shots and learn how to get down a little bit better."

Griffin had an inconsistent training camp, and Monday's game reflected more of the same. The 49-yard pass to Andre Roberts and the 23-yarder to DeSean Jackson looked brilliant, but there was also an interception that hit the don't-try-this-at-home trifecta: Griffin was off-balance and under pressure, the throw was late, and the receiver was covered.



RICHAARD LIPSKI/AP

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III slides down in front of Cleveland Browns outside linebacker Christian Kirksey during Monday's preseason game in Landover, Md.



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SPORTS

HAZY
situationLeague seeks right
answer for marijuanaBy EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

Marijuana is casting an ever-thickening haze across NFL locker rooms, and it's not simply because more players are using it.

As attitudes toward the drug soften, and science slowly teases out marijuana's possible benefits for concussions and other injuries, the NFL is reaching a critical point in navigating its tenuous relationship with what is recognized as the analgesic of choice for many of its players.

"It's not, let's go smoke a joint," retired NFL defensive lineman Marvin Washington said. "It's, what if you could take something that helps you heal faster from a concussion, that prevents your equilibrium from being off for two weeks and your eyesight for being off for four weeks?"

One challenge the NFL faces is how to bring marijuana into the game as a pain reliever without condoning its use as a recreational drug. And facing a lawsuit filed on behalf of hundreds of former players complaining about the effects of prescription painkillers they say were pushed on them by team trainers and doctors, the NFL is looking for other ways to help players deal with the pain from a violent game.

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Roger Goodell photo by The Associated Press

ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

Alabama WR looks to bounce back
College football, Page 58Stewart sitting out 3rd consecutive Cup race
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